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Sixtieth session

Provisional agenda of the sixtieth regular session of the General Assembly*

To convene at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 13 September 2005, at 10 a.m.**

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly (rule 31).[1]
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (rule 62).
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (rule 28):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.[2]
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (rule 30).[3]
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (rule 30).[3]
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (rule 30).[3]
7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee (rule 21).
8. General debate (resolutions 57/301 of 13 March 2003 and 59/145 of 17 December 2004).

* Issued in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure.

** In paragraph 1 of its resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, the General Assembly decided to amend rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly to read: "The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday of the third week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day".

[1] For the text of rule 31, as amended, see resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002.

[2] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session (decision 59/552 of 23 December 2004).

[3] For the text of rule 30, as amended, see resolution 56/509.

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25. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004).

26. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004).

27. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004).

28. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolutions 59/131 to 59/136 and decision 59/519 of 10 December 2004).[2]

29. Assistance in mine action (decision 59/516 of 10 December 2004).

30. Effects of atomic radiation (resolution 59/114 of 10 December 2004).

31. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004).

32. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (resolutions 59/117 to 59/120 of 10 December 2004).[2]

33. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (resolutions 59/121 to 59/125 of 10 December 2004).

34. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (resolutions 59/281 of 29 March 2005 and 59/300 of 22 June 2005).

35. Questions relating to information (resolutions 59/126 A and B of 10 December 2004).

36. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (resolution 59/127 of 10 December 2004).

37. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 59/128 of 10 December 2004).

38. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (resolution 59/129 of 10 December 2004).

39. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 59/130 of 10 December 2004).

40. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India (decision 59/503 of 17 September 2004).

41. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (resolution 59/251 of 22 December 2004).

42. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (resolutions 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, 58/150, 58/153 and 58/154 of 22 December 2003 and 59/170 and 59/172 of 20 December 2004).

B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

43. Report of the Economic and Social Council (rule 13 (b); General Assembly resolution 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and decision 58/573 of 13 September 2004).[2]

44. Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations (resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001).

45. Culture of peace (resolutions 55/47 of 29 November 2000, 59/23 of 11 November 2004 and 59/142 and 59/143 of 15 December 2004).

46. Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (resolution 58/282 of 9 February 2004).[2]

47. Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.[6]

48. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields (resolutions 58/156 of 22 December 2003, 58/291 of 6 May 2004, 59/145 of 17 December 2004 and 59/291 of 15 April 2005).[7]

49. 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa (resolutions 55/284 of 7 September 2001, 57/294 of 20 December 2002, 58/237 of 23 December 2003 and 59/256 of 23 December 2004).

50. Sport for peace and development:

(a) Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal (resolutions 58/6 of 3 November 2003 and 58/316 of 1 July 2004);

(b) International Year of Sport and Physical Education (resolution 59/10 of 27 October 2004).

[6] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session and its inclusion in the draft agenda of the sixtieth session is subject to any action that the General Assembly may take on it at its fifty-ninth session (see A/59/PV.100).

[7] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session (see A/59/PV.92).

51. Information and communication technologies for development (resolution 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and decisions 58/569 of 1 July 2004 and 59/531 of 22 December 2004).

52. Macroeconomic policy questions:

(a) International trade and development (resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, 58/198 of 23 December 2003 and 59/221 of 22 December 2004);

(b) International financial system and development (resolution 59/222 of 22 December 2004);

(c) External debt crisis and development (resolution 59/223 of 22 December 2004).

53. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (resolutions 58/230 of 23 December 2003 and 59/225 of 22 December 2004).[8]

54. Sustainable development (resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987):

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (resolutions 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and 59/227 and 59/228 of 22 December 2004);

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (resolutions 59/229 of 22 December 2004 and 59/311 of 14 July 2005);

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (resolutions 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004);

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (resolution 59/234 of 22 December 2004);

(e) Sustainable development in mountain regions (resolution 58/216 of 23 December 2003);

(f) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (resolution 58/210 of 23 December 2003);

(g) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003 and 59/235 of 22 December 2004);

(h) Convention on Biological Diversity (resolution 59/236 of 22 December 2004);

(i) Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas (resolution 59/238 of 22 December 2004).

[8] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session (see A/59/PV.110).

55. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004).

56. Globalization and interdependence:

(a) Globalization and interdependence (resolution 59/240 of 22 December 2004);

(b) Science and technology for development (resolutions 55/185 of 20 December 2000 and 58/200 of 23 December 2003);

(c) International migration and development (resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004);

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (resolution 59/242 of 22 December 2004).

57. Groups of countries in special situations:

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004);

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (resolution 59/245 of 22 December 2004).

58. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (resolution 59/247 of 22 December 2004);

(b) Women in development (resolutions 58/206 of 23 December 2003 and 59/248 of 22 December 2004);

(c) Human resources development (resolution 58/207 of 23 December 2003).

59. Operational activities for development:

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (resolutions 39/125 of 14 December 1984 and 59/250 of 22 December 2004);

(b) South-South cooperation: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and 58/220 of 23 December 2003).[9]

[9] The title of this sub-item in the provisional agenda is worded as it appears in the provisional programme of work of the Second Committee for 2004 approved by the General Assembly in its decision 58/553 of 23 December 2003. The Assembly had earlier decided, in resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", a sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development".

60. Training and research:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (resolutions 1934 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963 and 59/252 of 22 December 2004);

(b) United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy (resolution 55/207 of 20 December 2000).

61. Towards global partnerships (resolutions 58/129 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316 of 1 July 2004).

62. Global road safety crisis (resolutions 58/9 of 5 November 2003 and 58/289 of 14 April 2004).

63. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (resolution 59/146 of 20 December 2004).

64. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (resolutions 56/177 of 19 December 2001, 57/106 of 26 November 2002, 58/131 to 58/133 of 22 December 2003 and 59/147 and 59/148 of 20 December 2004).

65. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (resolution 59/150 of 20 December 2004).

66. Advancement of women (resolutions 34/180 of 18 December 1979, 39/125 of 14 December 1984, 45/124 of 14 December 1990, 58/143, 58/145 to 58/147 and 58/185 of 22 December 2003, 59/165 and 59/167 of 20 December 2004 and 59/260 of 23 December 2004).

67. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995, 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 59/167 and 59/168 of 20 December 2004).

C. Development of Africa

68. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support (resolution 59/254 of 23 December 2004);

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (resolution 59/255 of 23 December 2004).

D. Promotion of human rights

69. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (resolutions 44/25 of 20 November 1989 and 59/261 of 23 December 2004).

70. Indigenous issues (resolutions 57/192 of 18 December 2002 and 59/174 of 20 December 2004).

71. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (resolutions 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965, 3380 (XXX) of 10 November 1975 and 59/175 and 59/177 of 20 December 2004);

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 59/177 of 20 December 2004).

72. Right of peoples to self-determination (resolutions 59/178 and 59/180 of 20 December 2004).

73. Human rights questions:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments (resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, 39/46 of 10 December 1984, 58/165 of 22 December 2003 and 59/181 and 59/182 of 20 December 2004);

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (resolutions 58/167, 58/169, 58/174, 58/175, 58/177, 58/180, 58/182, 58/183 and 58/192 of 22 December 2003 and 59/183 to 59/185, 59/187, 59/188, 59/190 to 59/192, 59/194, 59/195, 59/198 to 59/200 and 59/202 of 20 December 2004);

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (resolutions 59/205 to 59/207 of 20 December 2004 and 59/263 of 23 December 2004);

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993);

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993).

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

74. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 59/211 of 20 December 2004 and 59/279 of 19 January 2005):

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (resolutions 59/137 of 10 December 2004, 59/141 of 15 December 2004 and 59/212 of 20 December 2004);

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (resolutions 57/101 of 25 November 2002, 58/116 and 58/121 of 17 December 2003 and 59/217 and 59/218 of 22 December 2004);

(c) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster (resolution 58/119 of 17 December 2003);

(d) Assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 59/56 of 2 December 2004);

(e) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan (resolution 59/112 B of 8 December 2004).

F. Promotion of justice and international law

75. Report of the International Court of Justice (rule 13 (b)).[2]

76. Oceans and the law of the sea:

(a) Oceans and the law of the sea (resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994 and 59/24 of 17 November 2004);

(b) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments (resolution 59/25 of 17 November 2004).

77. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (Security Council resolution 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 and General Assembly decision 59/510 of 15 November 2004).

78. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (Security Council resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993 and General Assembly decision 59/511 of 15 November 2004).

79. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (resolution 58/73 of 9 December 2003).

80. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-eighth session (resolution 59/39 of 2 December 2004).

81. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-seventh session (resolution 59/41 of 2 December 2004).

82. Report of the International Criminal Court (resolution 59/43 of 2 December 2004).[2]

83. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (resolutions 59/44 and 59/45 of 2 December 2004).

84. Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (resolution 59/47 of 2 December 2004).

G. Disarmament

85. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (resolutions 1145 (XII) of 14 November 1957 and 59/18 of 1 November 2004).

86. Reduction of military budgets:

    (a) Reduction of military budgets (resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980);

    (b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (resolution 58/28 of 8 December 2003).

87. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (resolutions 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002 and 59/61 of 3 December 2004).

88. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament (resolution 57/50 of 22 November 2002).

89. Question of Antarctica (resolution 57/51 of 22 November 2002).

90. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (resolution 58/29 of 8 December 2003).

91. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (resolution 58/30 of 8 December 2003).

92. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (resolution 58/31 of 8 December 2003).

93. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (resolution 59/60 of 3 December 2004).

94. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (resolution 59/62 of 3 December 2004).

95. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolution 59/63 of 3 December 2004).

96. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (resolution 59/64 of 3 December 2004).

97. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (resolution 59/65 of 3 December 2004).

98. General and complete disarmament:

    (a) Notification of nuclear tests (resolution 42/38 C of 30 November 1987);

    (b) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes (resolution 58/40 of 8 December 2003);

    (c) Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons (resolution 58/50 of 8 December 2003);

    (d) Transparency in armaments (resolution 58/54 of 8 December 2003);

(e) National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology (resolution 59/66 of 3 December 2004);

(f) Missiles (resolution 59/67 of 3 December 2004);

(g) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control (resolution 59/68 of 3 December 2004);

(h) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (resolution 59/69 of 3 December 2004);

(i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution 59/71 of 3 December 2004);

(j) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (resolution 59/72 of 3 December 2004);

(k) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them (resolution 59/74 of 3 December 2004);

(l) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments (resolution 59/75 of 3 December 2004);

(m) Nuclear disarmament (resolution 59/77 of 3 December 2004);

(n) Relationship between disarmament and development (resolution 59/78 of 3 December 2004);

(o) Reducing nuclear danger (resolution 59/79 of 3 December 2004);

(p) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (resolution 59/80 of 3 December 2004);

(q) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* (resolution 59/83 of 3 December 2004);

(r) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (resolution 59/84 of 3 December 2004);

(s) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas (resolution 59/85 of 3 December 2004);

(t) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (resolution 59/86 of 3 December 2004);

(u) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context (resolution 59/87 of 3 December 2004);

(v) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (resolution 59/88 of 3 December 2004);

(w) Regional disarmament (resolution 59/89 of 3 December 2004);

(x) Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems (resolution 59/90 of 3 December 2004);

(y) The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (resolution 59/91 of 3 December 2004);

(z) Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms (resolution 59/92 of 3 December 2004);

(aa) Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new strategic framework (resolution 59/94 of 3 December 2004);

(bb) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia (decision 59/513 of 3 December 2004);

(cc) United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament (decision 59/514 of 3 December 2004);

(dd) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus (decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004).

99. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

(a) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (resolution 59/96 of 3 December 2004);

(b) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament (resolution 59/98 of 3 December 2004);

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 59/99 of 3 December 2004);

(d) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 59/100 of 3 December 2004);

(e) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (resolution 59/101 of 3 December 2004);

(f) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (resolution 59/102 of 3 December 2004).

100. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

(a) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (resolution 38/183 O of 20 December 1983);

(b) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984);

(c) Report of the Conference on Disarmament (resolution 59/104 of 3 December 2004);

(d) Report of the Disarmament Commission (resolution 59/105 of 3 December 2004).

101. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (resolution 59/106 of 3 December 2004).

102. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (resolution 59/107 of 3 December 2004).

103. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (resolution 59/108 of 3 December 2004).

104. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (resolution 59/109 of 3 December 2004).

105. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (resolution 59/110 of 3 December 2004).

106. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (decision 58/516 of 8 December 2003).

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

107. Crime prevention and criminal justice (resolutions 59/151, 59/153 and 59/157 to 59/159 of 20 December 2004).

108. International drug control (resolutions 59/162 and 59/163 of 20 December 2004).

109. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (resolutions 59/46 of 2 December 2004 and 59/290 of 13 April 2005).

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (rule 49).

111. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (rules 13 (a) and 48; resolutions 47/120 B of 20 September 1993 and 51/241 of 31 July 1997).[2]

112. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council (rule 142; decision 59/402 of 15 October 2004);

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council (rule 145; decision 59/403 of 29 October 2004);

(c) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (rule 150; decision 57/404 of 21 October 2002).

113. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

(a) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and General Assembly decision 59/404 of 8 November 2004);

(b) Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and decision 58/404 of 10 November 2003);

(c) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 56/312 of 21 November 2001);

(d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (decision 56/324 of 23 July 2002).

114. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (rule 155; decision 59/407 of 8 December 2004);

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions (rule 158; decision 59/408 of 8 December 2004);

(c) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee (resolution 155 (II) of 15 November 1947 and decision 59/409 of 8 December 2004);

(d) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors (resolutions 74 (I) of 7 December 1946 and 55/248 of 12 April 2001 and decision 58/413 of 17 December 2003);

(e) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission (resolution 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974 and decision 59/412 of 8 December 2004);

(f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences (resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988 and decision 59/405 of 8 November 2004).

115. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (rule 136).

116. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (decision 59/509 of 8 November 2004).

117. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004).[2]

118. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.[5]

119. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (resolution 55/285 of 7 September 2001).

120. Strengthening of the United Nations system (resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003).[2]

121. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (resolutions 55/162 of 14 December 2000, 58/291 of 6 May 2004, 59/27 of 23 November 2004, 59/145 of 17 December 2004 and 59/291 of 15 April 2005).[7]

122. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (resolutions 52/212 B of 31 March 1998, 58/249 A of 23 December 2003, 59/264 A of 23 December 2004 and 59/264 B of 22 June 2005):[10]

(a) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(c) Capital master plan.

123. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (resolutions 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 59/287, 59/288 and 59/289 of 13 April 2005).[10]

124. Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (resolutions 58/270, 58/272 and 58/273 of 23 December 2003, 59/260 and 59/276 of 23 December 2004, 59/282 of 13 April 2005 and 59/294 and 59/295 of 22 June 2005, and decisions 59/555 to 59/558 of 13 April 2005).[10]

125. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (resolutions 58/269, 58/270 and 58/272 of 23 December 2003, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 59/275, 59/276 and 59/278 of 23 December 2004, 59/283 of 13 April 2005, 59/295 of 22 June 2005 and decision 59/549 of 23 December 2004).

126. Programme planning (resolutions 58/269 of 23 December 2003 and 59/275 of 23 December 2004).[2]

127. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.[4]

128. Pattern of conferences (resolution 59/265 of 23 December 2004).[2]

129. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (resolutions 58/1 B of 23 December 2003 and 59/312 of 14 July 2005 and decision 59/551 C of 22 June 2005).[10]

130. Human resources management (resolution 59/266 of 23 December 2004 and decision 59/551 C of 22 June 2005).

131. Joint Inspection Unit (resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976 and 59/267 of 23 December 2004).[2]

132. United Nations common system (resolutions 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974 and 59/268 of 23 December 2004 and decision 59/561 of 13 April 2005).[11]

133. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 58/269 of 23 December 2003 and 59/270 to 59/272 of 23 December 2004).[2]

[10] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session (see A/59/PV.104).

[11] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session (see A/59/PV.91).

134. Administration of justice at the United Nations (resolution 59/283 of 13 April 2005).

135. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (resolutions 58/253 of 23 December 2003 and 59/273 of 23 December 2004).[7]

136. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (resolutions 58/254 of 23 December 2003 and 59/274 of 23 December 2004).[7]

137. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (resolutions 57/290 B and 57/318 of 18 June 2003 and 59/296 to 59/299, 59/301 and 59/302 and decisions 59/562 to 59/564 of 22 June 2005).[10]

138. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (resolutions 59/15 A of 29 October 2004 and 59/15 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

139. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (resolutions 59/16 A of 29 October 2004 and 59/16 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

140. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (resolutions 59/284 A of 13 April 2005 and 59/284 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

141. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (resolutions 59/285 A of 13 April 2005 and 59/285 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

142. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.[4]

143. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (resolutions 59/13 A of 29 October 2004 and 59/13 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

144. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (resolution 59/303 of 22 June 2005).[10]

145. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (resolution 59/304 of 22 June 2005).[10]

146. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (resolutions 59/17 A of 29 October 2004 and 59/17 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

147. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991):[10]

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

(b) Other activities.

148. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (resolutions 59/286 A of 13 April 2005 and 59/286 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

149. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (resolution 59/305 of 22 June 2005).[10]

150. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:[10]

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (resolution 59/306 of 22 June 2005);

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (resolution 59/307 of 22 June 2005).

151. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (resolutions 59/14 A of 29 October 2004 and 59/14 B of 22 June 2005).[10]

152. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (resolution 59/292 of 21 April 2005).[12]

153. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (resolution 59/308 of 22 June 2005).[10]

154. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (resolution 59/42 of 2 December 2004).

155. Observer status for the Latin American Integration Association in the General Assembly (item proposed by Ecuador (A/60/141)).

[12] This item remains also on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session (see A/59/PV.93).

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Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains information on national activities in 2004/05 in follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. It describes activities of the Secretariat and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as major international non-governmental organizations, in support of national implementation, as well as their efforts to mainstream ageing issues into international programmes and activities. The report provides recommendations to promote implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, for the consideration of the General Assembly.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/150 of 20 December 2004, recommended that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see resolution 55/2), take into account the situation of older persons and called upon Governments and the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, and encouraged the non-governmental community, to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons were adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects. The Assembly invited Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making at all levels. It also invited Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries.

2. The General Assembly stressed the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] and in that connection, encouraged Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request. Stressing the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, the Assembly encouraged the relevant entities of the United Nations system to support national efforts in capacity-building. Finally, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixtieth session on the implementation of resolution 59/150. The present report responds to that request and provides information on national and international efforts and activities to implement the Madrid Plan of Action, based on contributions received from Governments, United Nations system focal points on ageing and major non-governmental organizations working in the field of ageing.

II. Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

3. Progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action is contingent upon simultaneous and coordinated actions at national and international levels. The road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action (A/58/160, sect. III) provides a practical approach to implement the plan. It offers a framework for Governments and other stakeholders to elaborate national implementation strategies by setting national priorities and selecting adequate approaches. While focusing on national implementation processes, the road map attempts to mobilize international cooperation to support the activities of Member States.

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

A. National action

4. The Madrid Plan of Action stresses the primary responsibility of Governments for implementing its broad recommendations and emphasizes that a necessary first step is to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older persons into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies. It identifies crucial elements for implementation, including: institutional follow-up; effective organizations of older persons; educational, training and research activities on ageing; and national data collection and analysis. The road map defines two universal and essential facets of the national implementation process, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition: national capacity-building; and mainstreaming of ageing into the national development agenda. Information available to the Secretariat suggests several arenas of national implementation activities, including: national capacity-building and promotion of institutional follow-up to the Madrid Plan; ageing-specific policy and programmes; and mainstreaming efforts.

Countries of the Economic Commission for Africa region

5. The Ministry of Social Affairs of Guinea established a unit in charge of questions relating to older persons and put in place a committee to analyse the recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action. The Government aims to conduct a study on the situation of older persons in the short term and to elaborate a national policy on ageing in the longer term. Kenya adopted a policy that increases the retirement age. In Mauritius, a national coordinating committee and relevant subcommittees were set up to oversee implementation. As of mid-2004, a bill for the protection of the elderly was being prepared.

6. Nigeria implements policies to integrate older persons as agents of socio-economic development. Senegal is now firmly committed to integrating ageing issues in national development programmes, including those aimed at the elimination of poverty, and has drafted a national plan of action on ageing (2005-2009) that is awaiting adoption.

Countries of the Economic Commission for Europe region

7. Azerbaijan has taken measures to establish an integrated system of social services for older persons. The implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in Belarus is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Several programmes are currently in place to benefit older persons, including a programme to address the issues of concern to older persons for the period 2001-2005 and a programme to support local and national organizations of veterans. Croatia continues to implement guidelines for amending existing laws and creating new ones to improve the quality of life of older persons. It promotes non-institutional social care, especially at the local level, in order to make the network of services more accessible to a larger number of older persons. The Ministry of Social Affairs of Denmark has maintained regular dialogue with individual senior citizens through the Association of Senior Citizen Councils. Furthermore, an independent national council (the "Age Forum") monitors and assesses conditions of older persons. In Finland, the Council of State prepared a report on the effects of changes in the age structure of the population and the ways in which different administrative sectors can prepare themselves for the changes. The overall themes of the report — a

healthy and active population and society for all ages — are based on the Madrid Plan of Action. The Government recognizes the need for a coherent, multisectoral ageing policy and for the adoption of a lifespan perspective a part of social policy.

8. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany set up a coordinating unit in the Federal Association of Senior Citizens' Organizations comprising 89 seniors' organizations and representing nine million older persons. The unit is developing a national plan for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. It also informs the public about the state of implementation and organizes technical conferences to support national implementation activities. Initiatives in Luxembourg include promotion of seniors' clubs, life-long learning programmes and health and social services for older persons. Efforts to address the situation of older persons and implement the Madrid Plan of Action in the Russian Federation focus on both ageing-specific programmes and mainstreaming efforts. The midterm (2003-2005) programme of social and economic development of the Russian Federation promotes the development of human capital through social services for people of different ages. The concerns of older persons are also addressed within the federal programme "Habitation" (2002-2010). The overhaul of the existing welfare system that affected millions of people, including older citizens, was initiated by the Government of the Russian Federation in May 2004. The new "benefits-to-cash" law provided an opportunity to simplify the existing outmoded system and offered greater transparency, a needs-based approach and equal treatment of beneficiaries, including older persons, in the cities and rural areas. Implementation, which started in January 2005, was not without controversy, as there were difficulties in coordination, particularly in regard to funding, between the federal Government and regional authorities. The welfare reform reinforced an ongoing shift towards regional, rather than central, provision of social support and social services for different vulnerable groups.

9. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland early in 2005 published a major new strategy, "Opportunity age — meeting the challenges of ageing in the twenty-first century". The strategy is a cross-ministerial initiative in which major stakeholders, including civil society, participated. The strategy charts new approaches and relationships that will meet the future needs of an older society, and has three main priorities: higher employment rates and greater employment flexibility for people over 50 years of age; enabling older people to play a full and active role in society; and promoting independence and control over life in old age. Indicators and outcomes to operationalize the strategy are being prepared.

Countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean region

10. In Bolivia, all older persons are entitled to receive an annual pension bonus. In 2003, Brazil adopted a national law that established the right of older persons who want to continue to work to do so, and promoted access to education and training, food, shelter and medical care. The Government of Colombia is working on a long-term public policy on ageing based on the Madrid Plan of Action, the regional implementation strategy and the realities of the national situation under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Protection, the Government agency charged with coordination ageing issues. Costa Rica created the *Consejo Nacional de la Persona Adulta Mayor* and is implementing several programmes and services, with a strong emphasis on inter-institutional arrangements. Cuba developed important geriatric

and gerontological health resources and universal coverage of social security and health benefits for older persons. The Dominican Republic established conditions for the creation of a national council of older persons. A law on older persons was approved in El Salvador in 2002. It facilitates implementation of a national policy to integrate older persons in the formal and informal labour market, encourages life-long education and promotes a model of the health of older persons among health-care personnel. It is expected that a plan of action will be elaborated later this year. The national institution responsible for issues of older persons in Guatemala, *Programa Nacional del Adulto Mayor*, is undertaking an assessment of their situation. In Honduras, the Congress is discussing a law on the protection of older persons and pensioners. Actions to be implemented under this law will be delegated to relevant programmes such as the Honduran Fund for Social Investment, which finances microenterprise projects.

11. In Mexico, a law on the rights of older persons was approved in 2002. The Mexican national coordinating body for ageing issues is the *Instituto Nacional de las Personas Adultas Mayores*, which established an inter-institutional coordinating council on older persons to promote activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations within the national gerontological programme and to formulate a policy on ageing. Nicaragua has outlined the principal directions of a national policy on social protection within which a social policy on older persons will be framed. During 2004 an analysis of the situation of older persons was carried out in Panama and a national policy was outlined under the auspices of the National Directorate of Older Persons. In 2005, Panama drafted a national plan of action. In Suriname, a national advisory board was established to provide the Government with the necessary advice on population ageing. A law on the promotion and integration of older persons was approved in Uruguay in 2004. It contains a framework for developing a national health-care plan of action. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has focused on developing programmes of social welfare, health and economic support for older persons.

12. Many countries in the English-speaking Caribbean have adopted policies on ageing and on older persons and strengthened institutional arrangements, including through the establishment of national councils. Various initiatives have also been undertaken to facilitate social contacts among generations and to promote the well-being of older citizens.

Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region

13. Bangladesh has a national coordinating body on ageing and a Cabinet committee with responsibility for overall supervision of the old-age allowance programme. The programme seeks to increase the number of recipients of the old-age allowance: while it is estimated that five million chronically poor older persons are eligible, currently only 1.315 million people receive the allowance. Indonesia adopted a national action plan on ageing for 2003-2008 following a national workshop in February 2003. A national commission on ageing was established in 2004 to assist the President in coordinating implementation of national policies and programmes for older persons and to provide policy advice and recommendations. Recent initiatives in Japan include the introduction of a continuous employment system, which applies to people up to the age of 65 and facilitates re-employment of older persons. Continuing national discussions focus on revision of the pension and health-care schemes.

14. The Republic of Korea reorganized its Ministry of Health and Welfare at the end of 2003 to strengthen the roles and functions of the units in charge of population ageing and the welfare of older persons. The Government established the Presidential Committee on Ageing and Future Society early in 2004 to analyse and assess social and economic changes caused by rapid population ageing and advise the president on appropriate long-term policies. Recent policy initiatives include work on a new legal framework and revision of some existing laws and regulations, including the adoption of a new basic act on ageing society; elimination of potentially discriminatory practices on wages and retirement age; revision of the pension system to encompass a multi-pillar model and groups not protected by existing pension schemes; and preparation of the physical and human infrastructure for the introduction of a new long-term care insurance. The Government of New Zealand continues to implement its "positive ageing strategy", which promotes opportunities for older persons to participate and contribute. Relevant Government agencies are drawing up a longer-term action plan that specifies objectives, links to positive ageing goals, measures for achievement and key actions and time frames.

15. The Philippines formed an inter-agency committee on the Philippine plan of action for older persons (1999-2004), which distributed the Madrid Plan of Action to all field offices, local government units and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, the Philippines developed an information and communication technology group to encourage interaction among local, regional and national committees. This group provides a repository of research on older persons and expedites dissemination of the Madrid Plan of Action. Sri Lanka established an elders' council in 2002, which set up committees of older persons at the village level to organize programmes to benefit older persons and engage them in decision-making on community matters.

Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region

16. Lebanon is developing a work plan based on the objectives of the Madrid Plan of Action. The Supreme Council for Family Affairs of Qatar is preparing a national strategy on ageing based on the recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action and identification of pertinent themes. Qatar hosted the Doha International Conference on Ageing in April 2005 to create awareness of the needs of older persons and their potential to participate in social development efforts. The final outcome was a declaration calling for the formulation of a universal declaration of rights for older persons. The Syrian Arab Republic has a national plan of action oriented towards the health and social welfare of older persons. There is a cross-ministerial national committee for the social welfare of older persons chaired by the Minister of Health.

B. Support for national action

17. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues work on the technical assistance initiative launched in 2003 to support Member States in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action. Advisory missions were undertaken to Kyrgyzstan in late 2004 and to Egypt in early 2005. A key overall objective in the provision of advisory services is to assist Member States in taking an integrated approach to issues of older persons and population ageing through mainstreaming into national development plans and policies across all sectors, as called for in the Madrid Plan of Action and the road

map for its implementation. A project proposal to secure funding for future and expanded work at the national level and provide for the inclusion of more partners, as called for in General Assembly resolution 59/150, has been submitted for Development Account funding.

18. In Kyrgyzstan and Egypt, the overall objective was to carry out a rapid needs assessment in different regions of the countries to ascertain the situation of older persons and their place in current sociocultural and economic contexts, the policy environment, the institutional framework and the operational context. This was achieved through discussions with representatives of Government at all levels, United Nations programmes and agencies, civil society and older people themselves as well as reference to relevant documentation. The findings were discussed with stakeholders, including Government officials and civil society organizations during multi-sector workshops where the groundwork was laid for a strategic and coordinated approach to the agreed-upon priority issues. Further follow-up work to help stakeholders fully apply and implement new approaches and strategies will be undertaken in the latter half of 2005.

19. At this stage of the technical assistance programme it is clear that while each national situation is unique, there are also a number of common issues affecting implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level. In some regions the most important issue is a general lack of awareness of the Plan or its contents, in particular by the ministries responsible for ageing issues. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge about the Plan among United Nations staff in field offices, even in those United Nations funds and agencies with a stated commitment to mainstream ageing in their development activities. Most bilateral donors have not taken the issue of ageing or the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on board in their work at the national level. Some United Nations agencies, however, are taking steps that could improve this situation. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is preparing a policy paper that will provide guidance for programmatic work and encourage its country offices to support the implementation of the Plan and provide technical assistance as needed. UNFPA has also continued to promote national capacity-building indirectly by supporting training institutes, including the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the international programme on population ageing in developing countries at Columbia University in New York. Also, the Headquarters Poverty Reduction Group of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to develop a practice note on ageing and development that will bring the issue to a wider audience at both Headquarters and in the field. Overall, it is clear that the strategy for raising the visibility of the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level among both Government officials and development agencies, as well as efforts to support the inclusion of older persons into United Nations and national development strategies and programmes, need to be strengthened.

20. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has provided technical assistance to several countries to reinforce their capacity for designing, implementing and monitoring the regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action (ECLAC document LC/L.2079). Support for policy design was provided to El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay. The Commission is also supporting research activities at the national level. A study using the Delphi methodology is being conducted in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Uruguay to help countries to identify long-term scenarios for ageing

policies. In addition, training workshops for journalists were held in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Nicaragua. ECLAC supports research in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia on participatory methodology in the design and implementation of ageing laws, policies and programmes.

21. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) focuses on helping Member States to implement their commitments under the Shanghai Implementation Strategy for the Madrid and Macao plans of action on ageing (ECLAC document E/ECLAC/1280) in the areas of social protection and health care. From mid-2004 to mid-2005 ESCAP has provided advisory services in the area of information and training, including on measuring changes in population structure, policy implications of population ageing and long-term health care. The training also focused on the advantages to Governments of utilizing participatory bottom-up approaches for data collection related to population and individual ageing; methods of bottom-up data collection, interpretation and tracking of progress indicators; resource mobilization to address ageing issues; and means of financing initial efforts and activities to implement national policy on ageing. Under the umbrella of a regional project designed to develop rapid participatory assessment tools to help Member States in their responses to population ageing, several national-level field studies were undertaken in China and Sri Lanka, utilizing tools developed to assess the impact of policies and programmes in rural communities. This work laid the groundwork for the development of a matrix of indicators to help Governments to formulate better strategies. To demonstrate national application of the draft indicators, the Government of China invited ESCAP to organize a national workshop to train professionals and practitioners involved in ageing issues. The efforts of ESCAP are backed up with training manuals designed specifically to meet local realities, publications on best practices for replication, knowledge updating through expert group meetings and regional seminars to review progress in meeting challenges.

22. The International Institute on Ageing in Malta organizes training programmes in Malta and elsewhere and has set up satellite centres to assist in capacity-building. Three centres were established during the past three years: in Singapore; in Pune, India; and in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. Other satellite centres are planned in Latin America, China and the Middle East. The Institute's training programmes for capacity-building are further reinforced by information exchange, technical cooperation, advocacy and publications. During 2004, the Institute was requested by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity of Tunisia to prepare a 10-year plan of action on ageing. This project is co-funded by the Government and UNDP. In addition, as a result of the Institute's long-standing collaboration with various Chinese organizations working in the field of ageing, during 2004 two training programmes were organized, in Beijing and in Malta, which were attended by 60 Chinese officials from the Beijing civil affairs bureau.

23. In addition to and sometimes in connection with the work of United Nations organizations, several international non-governmental organizations in the field of ageing provide support to develop national capacity on ageing. HelpAge International supported the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in ensuring that review of its poverty reduction strategy included direct consultations with older persons and that issues which emerged were incorporated in the strategy. The revised document has specific social protection and social inclusion goals that will directly benefit older persons. HelpAge International has shared this experience

with organizations of older persons, Member States (including during the side events held during the session of the Commission for Social Development in 2005), donors and, in particular, the World Bank at its civil society organization consultations on poverty reduction strategy papers in April 2005. Consultations are currently taking place with the Government of Mozambique based on the experience of the United Republic of Tanzania. The organization also provided direct support for policy development and mainstreaming in Bangladesh, Kenya and Mozambique, and continued to support capacity-building of civil society organizations in Kyrgyzstan, including through collaboration with the advisory mission of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. HelpAge International has supported evidence gathering and research at the national level in order to improve policymaking on a variety of issues, including the impact of HIV/AIDS on older persons and their dependents in the United Republic of Tanzania and Thailand, the nutritional status of older persons in displaced persons camps in the Sudan, and the impact of the tsunami of 2004 on older persons in India and Sri Lanka. The organization is entering the final phase of a project which builds the capacity of older persons and their organizations to assess the achievement of policy commitments and to advocate for improvement in implementation in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova and the United Republic of Tanzania.

C. International action

24. The Madrid Plan of Action emphasizes enhanced and focused international cooperation and effective commitment by developed countries and international development agencies to enable implementation of the Plan. Similarly important is a commitment by United Nations funds and programmes to ensure integration of issues of ageing in their programmes and projects, including at country level. The road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action underscores the central place of mainstreaming and calls for integrating ageing into existing processes and work programmes of the United Nations system organizations and development budgets. Older persons must be included in policy implementation and evaluation as a matter of course.

25. The Millennium Declaration and the subsequent Millennium Development Goals do not specifically address the challenges and opportunities of ageing. Since the goal to halve global poverty by 2015 and many other objectives are inherently intergenerational by nature, it is essential to take into account and reflect both the social and economic implications of demographic ageing and the needs of older persons in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This approach entails mainstreaming their concerns into the global agenda. In connection with the first five-year review of the Millennium Declaration, the international community is encouraged to consider older persons as a resource for development and not simply as beneficiaries.

26. To assist Governments in developing approaches that mainstream ageing in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, the Division for Social Policy and Development posted on its website a discussion paper, "Mainstreaming the concerns of older persons into the social development agenda" (www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/mainstream.htm). The paper attempts to define and explain the term "mainstreaming" and reviews mandates related to mainstreaming efforts. It

identifies topics, such as participation, education and health care, that are crucial for older persons and relates them to mainstreaming. Essential tools and techniques for systematic mainstreaming are also reviewed.

27. Various types of social protection, including social assistance and welfare services, as well as social insurance programmes geared at cushioning the risks associated with old age, were explored at length during the regional policy workshop for senior national officials organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development in November 2004 in India (see www.un.org/esa/socdev/htm). Emphasis was given to reviewing country experiences and best practices in South and East Asia, particularly regarding design, operational nature and effectiveness of partnership arrangements for social protection of older persons in formal and informal sectors.

28. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs gave special attention to the needs and concerns of older women in the review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The situation of older women was considered in the context of the analysis of critical areas such as women and poverty, women and the economy and women and health.

29. The Population Division integrates population ageing and associated policy issues into its technical work programme, publications and support for the Commission on Population and Development. Activities focus on research of the demographic aspects of population ageing and related policy issues, including studies aimed at understanding the social and economic causes and consequences of population ageing. In 2005, the Division issued a new assessment of population estimates and projections to 2050 (www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPP2004/2004Highlights_finalrevised.pdf), which is also available on CD-ROM. In addition to providing the full distribution of populations by sex and age by five-year age groups to 100 years and over, the published results include several summary statistics on population ageing, including the proportion of the population aged over 60 years and over 65 years, median age of the population and old-age dependency ratios. Also available are estimates of life expectancy of older men and women. The Population Division is planning to convene an expert meeting on the social and economic implications of changing population age structures during 2005. The proceedings of the meeting will contribute to the work of the Commission on Population and Development in 2007, when the special topic for the Commission will be the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development. A publication on living arrangements of older persons around the world will be issued in 2005. The study focuses on co-residence of older persons with family members, particularly children, on solitary living and the institutionalization of older persons. An updated version of the wall chart "World Population Ageing" will also be published during 2005.

30. The fourteenth annual International Day of Older Persons was observed globally on 1 October 2004 under the theme "Older persons in an intergenerational society". At United Nations Headquarters, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Public Information hosted a half-day event organized by the NGO Committee on Ageing in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and attended by some 500 people. The Secretary-General's message was presented and speakers included the Chairperson of the NGO

Committee on Ageing; representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNFPA; and several Government officials and experts on care of older persons from Jamaica, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America. The Strategic Communications Division of the Department of Public Information publicized the International Day to media, especially through its network of United Nations information centres, which arranged for the Secretary-General's message to be translated into 10 languages and distributed to journalists and non-governmental organizations. The information centres also ensured television, radio and newspaper coverage of ageing issues in national and local media. United Nations media outlets covered the Day, including a United Nations Radio story about the life of a 90-year-old woman.

31. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) contributes to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action within the general context of addressing the needs of poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. At its twentieth session, in 2005, the Governing Council adopted a resolution (HSP/GC/RES/20/13) entitled "Housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged". This resolution makes several references to older persons and requests all stakeholders, including Governments, local authorities, the international community and civil society to strengthen their focus and capacity so that more effective and concerted actions can be initiated to benefit vulnerable and disadvantaged persons. UN-Habitat participated in a number of international activities organized on topics related to ageing and older persons.

32. In 2005, UNFPA convened a meeting of experts to discuss policy and programme priorities in the field of population ageing, the Fund's comparative advantage and the strategic way forward in this area. UNFPA is preparing a policy paper, providing guidance for programmatic work and encouraging country offices to support the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and to offer technical assistance, as needed. UNFPA encourages a focus on the older poor in Common Country Assessments, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals. UNFPA helps build country capacity for age and gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis for policy formulation, programme planning and monitoring and evaluation. UNFPA will use the opportunity of the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2007 to monitor population programmes in this area and focus on the impact of population ageing on development as well as programmatic responses to the challenges it presents.

33. Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing by the International Labour Organization (ILO) is based on the premise that genuine solutions to the challenges of ageing societies should be sought by increasing participation in the labour force and promoting job creation. Productive and decent employment is the most powerful lever to ensure the stability of social security during demographic change and to enhance social security coverage. The ILO employment and social protection sectors developed a joint proposal for the agenda of the ninety-sixth session (2007) of the International Labour Conference on the theme "Employment and social protection in ageing societies". The proposal will be discussed during the meeting of the ILO Governing Body to be held in November 2005.

34. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has mainstreamed its work on rural ageing by focusing on enhancing income

opportunities for rural older persons in agriculture and related sectors; providing older rural residents with the agro-technical and business management skills they need; upgrading agricultural production technologies to meet the special requirements of older workers; supporting rural older persons as agents in the intergenerational transmission of agricultural knowledge and farming skills; preparing agricultural extension services to address extension and training needs of older farmers; reinforcing policies to assure that older rural men and women have access to services and productive resources; helping older members of farm households to cope with the effects of HIV/AIDS on their families and communities; supporting rural communities in developing effective responses to the effects of population ageing on agriculture, natural resources and rural development in general; improving the organization of agricultural emergency operations to better respond to the needs of older persons; strengthening the nutritional status of rural seniors through improved dietary practices and food security interventions; and taking a leadership role in promoting the human rights of rural older persons, especially their right to adequate food. In order to improve understanding of rural ageing issues, FAO has undertaken country studies in Bolivia, Chile, Ghana, India and Thailand. In addition, a series of technical papers on various aspects of rural ageing was published on the FAO website. The primary purpose of these materials is to reinforce the capacity of FAO member States to address effectively the implications of population ageing for agriculture.

35. WHO formulated a project to promote an integrated response of health-care systems to rapid population ageing in developing countries (the INTRA project). The project creates a knowledge base to support countries in reorienting policies towards integrated health and social care systems serving older populations. The first two phases of the project (now completed), conducted in 12 developing countries (Botswana, Chile, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Lebanon, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand), consisted of quantitative and qualitative research on the care-seeking behaviours of older people at primary health-care level; the roles, needs and attitudes of their service providers; and the types of services provided. Governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations contributed to this interdisciplinary research project, which resulted in the sharing of information and models of good practice among participating countries and a series of specific policy recommendations. The current phase, implemented in collaboration with the WHO Centre for Health and Development, Kobe, Japan and being conducted in Bolivia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago, focuses on older people who do not use primary health-care services. The project will lead to comprehensive policy recommendations on developing a continuum of care within the primary health-care sector aiming towards integrated old-age care.

36. Recognizing the importance of relevant training for future health workers, WHO partners with the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations in a continuing effort to mainstream ageing in medical curriculums and to strengthen the teaching of geriatric medicine in 42 countries. UNFPA and WHO are conducting a study on the factors that determine the health status of older women and their access to care as a contribution to the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The project will lead to a publication emphasizing best practices and policy recommendations, to be launched on the International Day of Older Persons 2005. The Eastern Mediterranean Office convened a meeting of experts in Bahrain in April 2005 to finalize the regional strategic plan of work on ageing and health for 2006-2015.

37. The WHO study on global ageing and adult health was developed using the world health survey programme. It will provide both a platform for data collection over time and methodologies for comparing the health and well-being of older persons within and across countries. The specific objectives of the study are to provide data to inform policy; to examine patterns and dynamics of age-related changes in health and well-being using longitudinal follow-up of survey respondents as they age; to investigate socio-economic consequences of these health changes; to supplement and cross-validate self-reported measures of health through measured performance tests; to collect health examination and biomarker data to improve reliability of information on morbidity and risk factors; and to monitor the effect of interventions. The study will serve as an independent monitoring platform for the Madrid Plan of Action, as it will provide comparable and valid cross-national longitudinal data on several objectives of the Plan in multiple countries. It will also provide a public-access information base to engage stakeholders, including national policymakers and health systems planners, in planning and decision-making processes about the health and well-being of older adults.

38. The fifty-eighth World Health Assembly (May 2005) endorsed a resolution (WHA58.16) entitled "Strengthening active and healthy ageing" by which, among other priorities, it urged Member States to strengthen national action in order to ensure sufficient resources to fulfil commitments to implementing the Madrid Plan of Action and related regional plans of action relating to the health and well-being of older persons. The Assembly requested the Director-General of WHO, inter alia, to strengthen the Organization's capacity to incorporate work on ageing throughout its activities and programmes at all levels.

39. Strengthening old-age income protection and reducing old-age vulnerability and poverty have been an integral part of the agenda of the World Bank for much of the last two decades. Loans during the period 2002 to 2004 with pension components totalled $2,775 million. In addition, since 2002 the Bank has published around 50 papers and books on pension issues and served as a key conduit for knowledge of pension reform on a national, regional and global basis. A notable milestone in establishing a framework for assessing ageing was the May 2005 release of the Bank report, "Old-age income support in the twenty-first century: an international perspective on pension systems and reforms". Other publications recently issued by the Bank include "Pensions in the Middle East and North Africa: time for change" (2005); "Pension reform in Europe: process and progress" (2003); "Public pension fund management: governance, accountability, and investment policies" (2003); and "Keeping the promise of social security in Latin America" (2003). Issues of ageing are also essential to actions and programmes for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As recently suggested in the Global Monitoring Report 2005, the Bank is committed to the scaling up of development efforts at the country level (including for issues of ageing) as guided by country-owned and country-led poverty reduction strategies or equivalent national development strategies. Within this framework, the Bank works to support the global partnership for development by its efforts to improve governance and public sector management for publicly managed mandatory and voluntary pension systems.

40. World Bank staff specialized in issues pertaining to older persons are assigned to social protection groups in each of the regions. These staff members work with country representatives to assess individual country needs, determine an appropriate

plan of action and articulate the reform agenda. Central units are also responsible for developing a broader framework for assessing ageing issues, undertaking cross-country and country-specific research on pertinent issues of old-age income and vulnerability protection, managing international knowledge, ensuring active development of internal policies, and assessing ex post the impact of Bank-supported interventions.

41. The work of HelpAge International to mainstream ageing includes collaborating with the UNDP Bureau of Policy Development and its related International Poverty Centre in Brasilia and providing input to the *Human Development Report* to ensure that it covers issues of ageing. HelpAge International has engaged actively with donors on inclusive and rights-based approaches, which require action by Governments to eliminate discrimination on the basis of age. This work includes oral and written submissions to the Government of the United Kingdom for the development of a policy paper entitled "Partnerships for poverty reduction: rethinking conditionality". The paper includes human rights and a focus on the vulnerable and marginalized, including older persons, as one of three core elements of poverty reduction policy, and will guide negotiations on aid policy in recipient countries. HelpAge International supports the development of country-based guidelines to roll out the policy. The organization also provided evidence on age discrimination, abuse and gender-based violations of rights to various policy forums. A paper produced by HelpAge International in 2005, "MDGs must target the poorest, say older people", will be used during country-level discussions related to the Millennium Development Goals.

42. The International Federation on Ageing, in partnership with a private sector stakeholder, launched a project involving non-governmental organizations in Cameroon, India, South Africa and Uganda linked with partner organizations in Australia, Israel and the United Kingdom. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations in developing countries to facilitate access for older people to health care and service delivery. The specific aim of the pilot project is to design approaches to improve the health and well-being of older people through careful, realistic planning and the exchange of expertise among organizations. With regard to mainstreaming, the Federation examines in detail national policy documents from 25 countries as they relate to ageing as part of the project "Voices of Action". The project pays particular attention to the influence of international agreements such as the Madrid Plan of Action and the Millennium Declaration on the development and direction of policies on ageing. The World Exposition of Innovation: Design for an Ageing Society, planned for May 2008, will contribute to monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. Experts on ageing, design and sustainable environment will discuss the future of design as a vehicle for addressing the social needs of the ageing population.

43. The International Association of Gerontology held its eighteenth congress in Rio de Janeiro in June 2005. More than 4,000 researchers and practitioners from all regions explored the theme of active ageing in the twenty-first century: participation, health and security. Four symposiums were held to address the role of the International Association of Gerontology in follow-up to the Madrid assembly. The Association also conducted the first meeting of a steering committee for the world ageing survey that will monitor the health and welfare of older persons.

44. The International Council for Caring Communities organized three events to mainstream ageing issues at local and international levels. The 2004 student design competition invited architecture students from around the world to develop solutions that integrate older persons in the social, cultural, and productive activities of their communities. The competition featured 26 finalist projects from 13 countries. The results will be exhibited at various international venues including the World Urban Forum, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006. To achieve "natural" mainstreaming of older persons in the information society, the International Council organized a worldwide competition focused on "Information and Communication Technologies for All Generations" in November 2004 at the meeting of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force in Berlin. As part of a series of interlinked congresses addressing the "age of longevity", an international conference on "Caring communities for the twenty-first century: imagining the possible" was held at United Nations Headquarters in 2005 in connection with the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development.

D. Regional action

45. The Economic Commission for Africa prepared and presented a paper, "Policy and programmatic measures taken to meet the needs of the elderly: Africa's response to a budding challenge" at an African conference on ageing held in Boksburg, South Africa, in August 2004, organized by the Government of South Africa, the Human Sciences Research Council and the Union for African Population Studies. The Commission presented a regional review report at the regional ministerial review conference held in Dakar in June 2004 on the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The findings showed that 32 Member States expressed concern regarding population ageing; 10 Member States provided social security or pension schemes to older persons; and institutional care was provided in 15 countries. There was diminishing support to older people because of rural-urban migration of able-bodied men and women; and there was an increasing burden on older persons resulting from their caring for growing numbers of HIV/AIDS sufferers and war orphans.

46. The European regional implementation strategy for the Madrid Plan of Action calls for follow-up through regional cooperation. The Economic Commission for Europe undertook a series of activities to facilitate information exchange on issues and policies related to ageing. A workshop entitled "Care provision in ageing societies: what are the policy challenges and how to address them" was held in Malta in May 2005. The workshop promoted national and regional implementation of commitments related to care provision. Experts identified issues of particular policy importance that should be given priority attention. They also discussed difficulties encountered in meeting the commitments and policy objectives of the regional strategy, and suggested policy measures to address these difficulties. A study on the implications for employment and fiscal policies of population ageing in the Commonwealth of Independent States is under way and preliminary results are expected in early 2006. The study aims to estimate age-related spending in the countries under review during the period 2000-2050. It will assess the fiscal and employment impact of ageing and suggest possible directions for social security reform in the concerned countries.

47. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean organizes its work on ageing within the framework of the regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In 2005, the Commission prepared a publication, "The Millennium Development Goals: a Latin American and Caribbean perspective", which includes a section on ageing and poverty, and provides a regional contribution to achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration. Future activities on ageing will include a study of intergenerational transfers that will serve as an input for a social protection document being elaborated for the Commission's next session, as well as work on the issue of gender inequality in pensions systems and the link between family changes and policies on ageing.

48. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized an expert meeting on resource mobilization for population ageing programmes, which identified factors contributing to the lack of sufficient resources to implement the Madrid Plan of Action. The meeting was followed by a regional seminar on follow-up to the Shanghai Implementation Strategy for the Madrid and Macao plans of action, held in Macao, China. The seminar reviewed progress in the implementation of the regional strategy since 2002, and advocated for improved social security protections and long-term health care for older persons.

49. With regard to community support initiatives, the Commission contributed to a training programme on community care in an ageing population, organized by the Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering (Western Australia) and the Singapore Action Group of Elders and held in Perth, Australia, in May 2005. The primary objective of the training programme was to provide professionals and caregivers with skills and tools to become more effective in providing care and support and understanding how to manage not only medical and physical conditions, but also social and emotional needs of older persons. The Commission plans to conduct training on geriatric community-based health and social services in Jakarta and Dhaka; to organize a workshop in Jaipur, India, on improving the image of older persons in the media; and to conduct three seminars on the effect of the tsunami on older persons, among other vulnerable groups, in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

E. Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-First Century

50. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Association of Gerontology continued joint work on the development and dissemination of the Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-First Century. The Research Agenda was adopted by the Valencia Forum in April 2002 and presented to the delegates of the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The General Assembly, by its resolution 57/177 of 18 December 2002, welcomed the adoption of the Research Agenda to support the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In 2003, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Association of Gerontology conducted four regional workshops which formulated regional research priorities to support implementation of the Plan. During the eighteenth world congress of the International Association of Gerontology and in cooperation with it, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Centre for Ageing Studies of the University of South Australia organized a workshop on further development of the Research Agenda. The workshop reviewed global and regional Research Agenda documents in the light of new challenges and emerging priorities on ageing; explored the contribution of the Research Agenda to

monitoring of the Madrid Plan of Action; proposed updates for the global Research Agenda document; and considered steps to promote and distribute it. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will present the results of the recent workshop and the deliberations of the four regional workshops in a publication. In connection with the project, the International Association of Gerontology established a working group to examine the feasibility of undertaking a survey to address a number of the research questions identified in the Research Agenda. **The General Assembly may wish to invite Governments to consult and utilize the Research Agenda as a tool for strengthening national capacity on ageing for the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action. The Assembly may also wish to invite intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider the Research Agenda as a framework for their research activities related to ageing and implementation of the Madrid Plan.**

III. Conclusion

51. The present report provides evidence of broad and diverse activities on ageing around the world. The activities highlighted are linked to or inspired by efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action. However, the new developmental vision of national and international action on ageing promoted in the Plan often remains unclaimed. In many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan remains limited or non-existent. **In this connection, the General Assembly may wish to call on Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the non-governmental community to reinforce their advocacy campaigns aimed at informing all major societal actors, including older persons and their organizations, about the decisions taken at the Second World Assembly on Ageing.**

52. Mainstreaming ageing in national plans and international strategies remains a daunting task. Ageing and the situation of older persons often continue to be addressed from a "humanitarian" perspective that ignores the potential of older persons to contribute to reaching national developmental objectives and jeopardizes progress towards achieving global development goals. **The General Assembly may wish to reiterate its recommendation to take into account the situation of older persons in the ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.**

53. International cooperation for building national capacity to respond to challenges and opportunities of ageing is essential for implementation of the recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action. However, the human and financial resources available to the United Nations system and specifically to the staff of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs providing technical assistance to Member States remain severely limited. **The General Assembly could again stress the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and encourage Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request.**

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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General continues to believe that the mandate of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific remains valid and that the Centre has been a useful instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation and disarmament in the region. As evident from General Assembly resolutions, the regional dialogue being promoted by the Centre, through the organization of various disarmament meetings in Asia and the Pacific addressing the whole range of disarmament, non-proliferation and education issues, has received wide support from Member States and academic groups within the region as a means of identifying pressing disarmament and security-related issues relevant to the region and exploring region-oriented solutions.

During the reporting period, from July 2004 to July 2005, the Centre continued to promote disarmament and security through the organization of meetings and conferences in the region (Sapporo, Japan, 26-29 July 2004; Nadi, the Republic of Fiji Islands, 18-20 August 2004; Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea, 6-8 December 2004; Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 19-21 April 2005; Kanazawa, Japan, 13-14 June 2005). The Centre continued to assist the five Central Asian States in the drafting and finalization of a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. As a result of intensive negotiations that lasted over seven years, the Central Asian States concluded their negotiations and adopted on 8 February 2005 the text of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and the attached Protocol. The Centre also continued to provide assistance to Mongolia

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in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen its international security and nuclear-weapon-free status. In addition, the Centre continued to encourage the implementation of the recommendations of the *United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education*.[1]

Consultations on the relocation of the Centre continued with the host country. The final version of a draft host country agreement and a draft memorandum of understanding on the operational costs to be met by the host country were forwarded to the Government of Nepal for consideration in December 2001 and April 2002 respectively. Follow-up reminders were sent to the Nepalese authorities in December 2002, February and May 2003. The Department for Disarmament Affairs also provided the Nepalese authorities with information on the issues of immunities and privileges as well as the updated estimates of operational costs by letter of 21 October 2004.

Given the continued financial and logistical difficulties faced by the Centre, the Secretary-General is considering the possibility of co-locating the Centre with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok as a way of ensuring the operational sustainability of the Centre. In this connection, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is undertaking consultations with Member States and donor countries, paying particular attention to solutions that address the demands and needs of the Asian and Pacific region, and enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the Centre's operations.

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I. Introduction

1. On 3 December 2004, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 59/100 entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". In paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities; urged him to ensure the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu within six months of the date of signature of the host country agreement and to enable the Centre to function effectively; and requested him to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. It covers the activities of the Centre during the period from July 2004 to July 2005. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre covering the year 2004 is contained in annex I. A list of planned activities of the Centre for which financial support from interested donors is being sought appears in annex II. In addition to the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre, activities of the Centre may be funded from voluntary contributions to other disarmament trust funds.

II. Activities of the Centre

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific continues to be a useful instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation for peace and disarmament in the region. Consultations being carried out by the Director of the Centre with Member States and academic institutes within and outside the region, as well as meetings organized by the Centre, have confirmed the strong support for the Centre's role in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building and the promotion of disarmament and security. In that connection, the value of regional meetings organized by the Centre has been highly commended by the General Assembly and the Asian and Pacific community.

4. In line with that approach and within the limited financial resources available through voluntary contributions of Member States and other interested organizations, the Centre organized, during the reporting period, a number of conferences and meetings, as described below.

5. From 26 to 29 July 2004, the Centre organized, in close cooperation with the Government of Japan, Hokkaido Prefecture, Sapporo City and Sapporo International Communication Plaza, a regional disarmament conference on "Mounting challenges to peace and security and disarmament today" in Sapporo, Japan. The conference was attended by approximately 60 participants from Governments, academic and research institutes, the media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their personal capacity. The Sapporo conference considered, inter alia, the mounting challenges to nuclear non-proliferation and the international response to them, the nuclear black market, strengthening of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), challenges and prospects for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), strengthening of the NPT regime, negative security assurances, strengthening multilateralism and

combating terrorism, regional security in North-East Asia, the role of civil society and gender issues in armed conflict.

6. One session was entirely devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation education. Approximately 60 teachers and students from elementary and high schools attended the session, which provided useful opportunities for the exchange of views and sharing of experiences between teachers in Sapporo and disarmament and non-proliferation experts. The discussions reaffirmed the objective of disarmament and non-proliferation education, that is, to impart knowledge and skills to individuals to empower them to make their contribution, as national and world citizens, to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures and the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

7. The conference was highly commended by the participants as making a useful contribution to endeavours to promote disarmament and non-proliferation dialogue within and outside the Asian and Pacific region. The efforts of the Centre to introduce the subject of disarmament and non-proliferation education into the discussion were appreciated by the education community in Sapporo City and by the press. The participants at the conference unanimously called for the strengthening of existing disarmament-related treaties and conventions.

8. During the period under review, the Centre organized a regional seminar to address the issue of small arms and light weapons, in cooperation with the Governments of Australia and Japan. The seminar, hosted by the Republic of Fiji Islands, was held in Nadi from 18 to 20 August 2004. Approximately 50 participants, including experts from the South Pacific States and from international and regional organizations and NGOs, attended the seminar.

9. The major objective of the seminar was to familiarize the South Pacific States with the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects. The seminar also focused on increasing familiarity with and promoting greater participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. Other topics addressed by the seminar were the implementation by the South Pacific States of the Weapons Control Bill adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum and cooperation among them to strengthen stockpile management in the region. In addition, on the margins of the seminar, a workshop was organized by the Small Arms and Demobilization Unit (Geneva) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help the South Pacific States to prepare their respective national reports on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action. The participants were briefed on the experiences and the security concerns relating to small arms and light weapons issues in some parts of the South Pacific region and on the role of civil society in these matters.

10. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to serve as a forum for the Asian and Pacific community to address security and disarmament concerns in the region through the organization of regional meetings. In that respect, the Centre and the Republic of Korea jointly organized a conference on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, entitled "How to address challenges in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation today", on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 8 December 2004.

11. This was the third such annual regional disarmament conference organized jointly by the Centre and the Government of the Republic of Korea. Approximately 30 participants from Governments, academic and research institutes, as well as NGOs, mainly from the Asian and Pacific region, attended the conference in their personal capacity. The Jeju conference served as a forum for the discussion of pressing security concerns and relevant disarmament issues, and considered recent trends in weapons of mass destruction and their challenges to security, implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, assistance and protection against chemical weapons (article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention), prospects and challenges for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, peaceful use of nuclear energy and the nuclear fuel cycle, the non-proliferation challenges in North-East Asia, activities of the Missile Technology Control Regime for missile non-proliferation and the role of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

12. During the reporting period, the Centre also organized a regional workshop to address issues of small arms and light weapons, in Beijing from 19 to 21 April 2005, in close cooperation with the Governments of China, Japan and Switzerland.

13. Approximately 80 participants, including government representatives, particularly from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the five Central Asian States, and officials and experts from research institutes and NGOs attended the workshop.

14. The workshop provided the participants from South-East and Central Asia with an opportunity to identify the major problems and challenges in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and explore ways to implement effectively the United Nations Programme of Action at the national level. The workshop also enabled participants to exchange information and share experiences on the ongoing regional cooperation and multilateral efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and on how to promote those efforts.

15. The participants stressed the urgent need for international assistance and cooperation, including financial and technical assistance, to support and facilitate efforts at the national, regional and global levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. They also encouraged intensified international cooperation and assistance in capacity-building for countries or regions in need in such areas as legislation, law enforcement, tracing and marking, stockpile management and destruction of excessive or confiscated small arms and light weapons. The participants further called for strengthening cooperation and partnerships with civil society organizations to share relevant resources and information which would complement and assist governmental efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

16. The workshop offered the participants an excellent opportunity to share their experiences in addressing the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to gather momentum in attracting both the political will and professional competence to deal with the problem at the national, regional and global levels. It provided valuable inputs to the Open-Ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Second

Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in June and July 2005 respectively.

17. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to maintain close interaction with the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) by inviting its members to participate in meetings it had organized. The Director of the Centre participated in the CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, in Singapore on 27 and 28 May 2005. The Centre also continued to explore the possibility of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), academic institutes and NGOs in the Asian and Pacific region by inviting them to participate in the dialogue on security and disarmament issues. The Centre initiated consultations with some ASEAN members to explore cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

18. The Centre continued to develop effective working relationships with disarmament-related international intergovernmental organizations. In that connection, IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) participated in the conferences organized by the Centre in Sapporo and Jeju Island. The Director of the Centre participated in a workshop to promote the United Nations Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education held in Yangon, from 30 August to 4 September 2004. The workshop was hosted by the Government of Myanmar. Experts from OPCW and the provisional technical secretariat of CTBTO attended the workshop. The Centre will continue to promote further interaction and constructive working relationships with these organizations.

19. The value of the regional dialogue promoted by the Centre through the organization of meetings in the Asian and Pacific region and other means has been appreciated in General Assembly resolutions. The continuation of that dialogue aimed at identifying pressing disarmament and security-related needs relevant to the region and at encouraging region-oriented initiatives has gained the strong support of Member States and academic groups within the region. The Centre has developed a network linking the Centre and its interlocutors within the region, as a way of exchanging data and information and exploring further collaboration for joint activities relating to disarmament and security in Asia and the Pacific. The Centre's website was launched in January 2002 and has since been expanded. A brochure providing information on the activities of the Centre is currently being revised. The Centre extended assistance to the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China in the compilation of the speakers' texts presented at the Jeju conference and the Beijing workshop respectively. In order to raise public awareness, the Centre has initiated the preparation of factsheets on major regional disarmament initiatives, such as the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free status.

20. Pursuant to a request by the General Assembly contained in its resolutions 52/38 S, 53/77 A, 55/33 W and 57/69, and to Assembly decisions 58/518 and 59/513, the Centre continued to assist the five Central Asian States in finalizing a treaty to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The Centre organized a series of expert group meetings to facilitate the process. Following the agreement reached by experts of the five Central Asian States on a treaty text (the Samarkand

text) at a meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in September 2002, the Centre organized another meeting, in Tashkent from 7 to 9 February 2005. The five Central Asian States concluded their seven-year negotiations and adopted the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and the attached Protocol on 8 February 2005. The treaty reflects new developments in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The five Central Asian States concluded that there would be no further expansion of the zone. As the first nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature in September 1996, it reflects the basic obligations contained in the latter treaty and attaches great importance to environmental issues. It encourages the States parties to conclude with IAEA the Additional Protocol. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/38 S of 9 December 1997 and subsequent relevant resolutions, the Centre has provided the five Central Asian States with technical and substantive assistance since 1998.

21. Consultations are under way among the five Central Asian States to seek the support of the nuclear-weapon States for the treaty adopted at Tashkent. The important contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime and to regional and world peace and security has been universally recognized. The Secretary-General welcomed the significant progress made concerning the treaty by the five Central Asian States. In their joint statement adopted in Tashkent (A/59/733-S/2005/155), the five Central Asian States expressed their desire to sign the treaty as soon as possible. It is expected that the signing ceremony will take place in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, in 2005.

22. As a means of promoting cooperation between the Centre and its constituents, the Centre continued to provide technical and substantive services to the United Nations Association of Japan for its organization of "An international symposium on peace and environmental issues in Ishikawa", which was held in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan on 13 and 14 June 2005. The symposium addressed, inter alia, peace and environmental issues today, security concerns in North-East Asia, the Korean peninsula, including the resumption of the six-party talks, the current situation in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the outcome of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, sustainable development and environmental issues, the promotion of education on environmental issues and regional cooperation in this field, regional exchanges and confidence-building. The participants highly appreciated the useful role of the Ishikawa symposium (the successor of the Kanazawa symposium), which can provide the States in the region with an opportunity to address freely their security concerns and common challenges in North-East Asia.

23. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/73 on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status the Centre held frequent consultations with Mongolia to strengthen further its nuclear-weapon-free status. The Centre organized a meeting of a consultative group of United Nations departments, programmes, funds and agencies on 7 July 2005 to address, in particular, non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, IAEA, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and representatives of Mongolia attended the meeting. The meeting focused on the follow-up of two studies conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on economic vulnerabilities and human security and by UNDP on ecological vulnerabilities and human security, respectively. A separate

report of the Secretary-General on the subject was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (A/59/364).

III. Staffing and financing

24. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D of 30 November 1987, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end. In its resolution 59/100, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the continuing political support and voluntary financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which were essential for its continued operation. It also appealed to Member States, in particular those within the Asian and Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Centre and the implementation thereof. The Assembly also urged the Secretary-General to ensure the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu within six months of the date of signature of the host country agreement and to enable the Centre to function effectively.

25. In that connection, consultations continued with the host Government regarding the relocation to Kathmandu. It should be recalled that the final version of a draft host country agreement and a draft memorandum of understanding on the operational costs to be met by the Government of Nepal were forwarded to the Nepalese authorities for consideration on 6 December 2001 and 12 April 2002, respectively. As a follow-up, reminders were sent to the Nepalese authorities on 9 December 2002, 3 February 2003 and 6 May 2003. The Government of Nepal, in letters dated 26 September 2003 and 15 July 2004, reiterated its readiness to host the Centre and to conclude the relevant agreements. The Department for Disarmament Affairs, in a letter dated 21 October 2004, provided the Government of Nepal with additional information on the issues of immunities and privileges, as well as updated estimates of operational costs, and is awaiting a response from the Government of Nepal in this regard.

26. At the same time, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has continued to focus efforts on identifying ways and means of ensuring the operational sustainability of the Centre, with particular attention being paid to solutions highlighting efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as well as to the demands and needs of the Asian region. Specifically, during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, at an informal meeting of the First Committee devoted to this issue, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs informed the Committee of the financial and logistical difficulties, as well as the additional challenge of increased security requirements. As a possible solution, the Secretary-General is currently considering the possibility of consolidating the activities of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific with other United Nations regional operations by co-locating the Centre with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. To this end, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is undertaking consultations with Member States, including donor countries.

27. During the reporting period, from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004, voluntary contributions in the amount of $18,500 were received. The Secretary-

General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand for their contributions.

28. In addition, the Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the Governments of Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Uzbekistan and to Hokkaido Prefecture, Sapporo City, Sapporo International Communication Plaza, Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City for their financial and technical support for the United Nations conferences and meetings organized by the Centre during the past year. He is gratified by the continued political and financial support for the Centre from the region. In addition to being funded from the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre, activities of the Centre may also be funded from voluntary contributions to other disarmament trust funds.

29. The Regional Centre's current staff consists of the Director, one associate expert and one General Service staff member. The Centre is seeking an additional associate expert to implement fully its mandate.

IV. Conclusions

30. The Centre continued to serve as a useful forum for regional and subregional dialogue on specific security concerns and global and regional disarmament issues and as an instrument for assisting regional initiatives in the field of disarmament and security concerning weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons. The adoption of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in Tashkent on 8 February 2005 is an excellent example of collaboration between Member States and the United Nations for the cause of regional and global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In addition, the Centre continued to encourage implementation of the recommendations of the *United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education*.[1]

31. In order to promote further cooperation and interaction, the Centre expanded its contacts with academic institutes, foundations and regional and subregional organizations within the Asian and Pacific region, as well as with disarmament-related international organizations. The Centre succeeded in raising public awareness about the developments and trends in the field of disarmament and security in the region. The Centre was able to expand its outreach to its constituents further through its website and through the wide distribution of brochures and factsheets providing information on its various activities.

32. In order for the Centre to ensure its operational sustainability and expand its activities, which are solely dependent on the voluntary contributions of Member States and interested organizations, increased and stable financial support is essential. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation for the contributions received and reiterates his appeal to Member States, particularly those in the Asian and Pacific region, to continue to make or increase contributions to the Centre in support of its programme of activities.

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. 06.IX.4.

Annex I

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for the period 1 January-31 December 2004

		United States dollars
I.	Fund balance as at 1 January 2004	206 118
II.	Income	
	1 January 2004-31 December 2004	
	Voluntary contributions[a]	18 500
	Interest income	2 893
	Miscellaneous income	2 654
	Subtotal	**230 165**
III.	Expenditures	
	1 January 2004-31 December 2004	69 960
	Programme support	9 095
	Prior period adjustments	(42)
	Subtotal	**79 013**
IV.	Fund balance, 31 December 2004	151 152

[a] Republic of Korea ($20,000)
Indonesia ($10,000)
Thailand ($3,000)

Annex II

Planned activities of the Centre

Project I

Title: The Sixth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Kyoto on "The United Nations after six decades and renewed efforts for the promotion of disarmament"

Purpose: To assist the Asian and Pacific community to promote dialogue on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and small arms and light weapons issues

Location: Kyoto, Japan

Duration: 3 days (17-19 August 2005)

Number of participants: 60 participants, including government officials, academics and NGO representatives

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Travel of participants	62 000
Travel of staff	25 000
Operating expenses	13 000
Total	**100 000**

Project II

Title: United Nations — Republic of Korea joint conference on disarmament and non-proliferation issues

Purpose: Fourth regional disarmament conference to address security concerns in North-East Asia, including non-proliferation and weapons of mass destruction

Location: Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

Duration: 3 days (1-3 December 2005)

Number of participants: Approximately 30 participants, mainly from the Asian and Pacific region

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Travel of participants	40 000
Travel of staff	15 000
Operating expenses	13 000
Total	**68 000**

Project III

Title: A symposium on the promotion of the *United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education*

Purpose: To familiarize participants with and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained in the *United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education*

Location: Jakarta (tentative)

Duration: 3 days

Number of participants: 30

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Travel of participants (costs to be covered by host)	
Travel of two staff members	12 000
Operating expenses	1 000
Total	**13 000**

Project IV

Title: United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, in Japan

Purpose: To assist the Asian and Pacific community to promote dialogue on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

Location: To be decided

Duration: To be decided

Number of participants: To be decided

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Travel of participants	77 000
Travel of staff	20 000
Operating expenses	13 000
Total	**110 000**

United Nations A/60/153

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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the reporting period, from July 2004 to June 2005, the Centre operated under enormous uncertainty owing to a persistent lack of necessary voluntary contributions to support its activities.

Despite the continued financial difficulties experienced during the reporting period, the Centre was able to, largely due to the dedication of its staff, accomplish a number of activities in the four priority areas endorsed in 1999 by the African Group of States, namely peace and security; arms control and disarmament; research, information and publication; and cooperation with regional organizations and civil society.

The Centre continued to promote and support the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the provisions relating to transparency in the flows of small arms and light weapons, contained in the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, through the project on small arms transparency and control regime in Africa, as well as capacity- and institutional-building for the national commissions/points of contact established by Governments for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

* A/60/150.

05-43684 (E) 120805

The Centre also continued to pursue cooperation with regional and non-governmental organizations in the furtherance of peace, security and disarmament in Africa during the reporting period. That cooperation was in the form of exchange of programmes and information, provision of technical advice and expertise, especially regarding the drafting of concept papers, project documents and conference reports, as well as undertaking field missions. To maximize synergies, the Centre strengthened working relationships with relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, such as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the United Nations Development Programme, in areas of common interest.

Given the financial crisis of the Centre, which became more acute during the second half of 2004, efforts were made during the past few months by the Department for Disarmament Affairs to identify ways and means of ensuring the operational sustainability of the Centre, with particular attention given to solutions highlighting efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as well as to the demands and needs of the African region.

In that context, the Secretary-General is considering the possibility of consolidating the activities of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa with other United Nations regional operations by co-locating the Centre with the United Nations Office at Nairobi or with the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa. To that end, consultations are currently being undertaken by the Department for Disarmament Affairs with Member States, including donor countries.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/101 of 3 December 2004, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for better achievements and results, to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre, and to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers the period from July 2004 to June 2005. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the year 2004 is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning of the Centre

2. The Regional Centre was established in 1986 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. Its headquarters is located in Lomé. The Centre functions within the framework of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which ensures its supervision and acts as the focal point for coordinating the input of the pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The Centre operates on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and on voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors offer.

3. During the reporting period, the Centre operated under enormous uncertainty owing to a persistent decline in voluntary contributions in support of its activities. Within its limited financial resources, the Centre continued to implement its programme of work, which was endorsed in 1999 by the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, in the following main areas: peace and security; arms control and disarmament; research, information and publication; and cooperation with regional organizations and civil society.

III. Objectives and activities of the Centre

4. The mandate of the Centre, as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, is to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of the Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the African Union, as well as coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

5. During the period under review, the Centre carried out a number of activities in the above-mentioned four areas.

A. Peace and security

6. Peace and security continued to be a core element of the activities of the Centre. The Centre participated, on 25 January 2005 in Accra, Ghana, in the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which was largely devoted to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. It provided an opportunity for the Centre to liaise with ECOWAS member States and with representatives of other delegations on the disarmament aspects of the peace process and the possible role the Centre could play.

7. With regard to the Great Lakes region and in particular the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Centre initiated consultations with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office in Kinshasa for the deployment of a one-month mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with a view to reviewing and advising on the pursuit of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process that had been launched in the context of the peace process in that country.

8. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to follow up on the implementation of the project entitled "Promotion of civil-military relations in Africa: a factor of peace and security", launched in 2001 in cooperation with the African Union. As a result, a draft code of conduct for armed and security forces in Africa was developed, which was submitted to the Commission of the African Union for consideration. In that connection, the Centre, together with the Commission of the African Union and other partners, especially the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces and the Friedrich Erbert Foundation, are currently working towards launching a process to have the draft code of conduct adopted by the African Union. The process will include a governmental expert and ministerial meeting, and the publication and dissemination of the draft code, as appropriate.

9. In connection with that project, the Centre also launched two pilot surveys in Togo: one on the perception of the armed and security forces by the civilian population; and the other on the perception of the civilian population by the armed and security forces. Similar surveys are envisaged for other countries in Africa, the outcomes of which are intended to serve as a basis for the formulation of action-oriented pro[illegible]mmes to address areas of tension between the civilian population and the military, particularly in emerging democracies in Africa.

10. The Centre completed work on the parliamentary defence committees training course for West Africa through the publication and dissemination of the final report and training modules. Efforts are currently being made to organize similar workshops, with the support of donors and other partners for parliamentary defence committees in the Central African subregion, on such defence-related matters as the formulation of defence policies, the adoption of defence budgets and military programming.

11. To promote mainstreaming gender in peace and disarmament, the Centre initiated, in collaboration with the Togolese Association of Business Women, a dialogue process between women's groups and the Government in the search for common solutions to peace and security in the country. In that context, the Centre assisted the Association in the elaboration of a project proposal for the organization

of a conference on the role of women in the maintenance of peace and security in Togo.

B. Arms control and disarmament

12. During the reporting period, the Centre maintained contacts and exchanged information on the adherence to and implementation of multilateral disarmament agreements related to weapons of mass destruction by countries in the African region with intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies concerned, such as the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

13. The Centre also supported the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the African Union-sponsored Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

14. Support of the Centre for the implementation of the Programme of Action in Africa was provided through the small arms transparency and control regime in Africa (SATCRA) project, and capacity and institutional-building for the national commissions/points of contact established by Governments for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Small arms transparency and control regime in Africa project

15. The SATCRA project was launched in October 2003 in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union as a regional pilot project. The project, financed by the Governments of Finland and Sweden, brings together the following 10 countries, which have agreed to build, on a voluntary basis, a transparency regime on matters pertaining to the licit flows of small arms and light weapons: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo. The main objective of this project is to encourage openness and transparency in the transfers of small arms and light weapons and to strengthen the capacities of the participating States in the application of effective measures that prevent the diversion of such weapons from licit to illicit domains. The project has three main priority areas of activities: (a) the promotion of transparency by building consensus around the concept and by adopting common effective operational policies and measures; (b) the establishment of national inventories on the production capacities of small arms and light weapons in the participating States, with a view to documenting and assessing the qualitative and quantitative capacities of the local and, in most cases, artisan producers of firearms; and (c) the establishment and maintenance of a regional arms register as well as a database on small arms and light weapons. With regard to the second priority area, while the aim is not the abolition of the production of firearms, which has played an important role in the cultures of some of the countries involved in the SATCRA project, the participating States agreed that the establishment of national inventories would enable the adoption or reinforcement of regulatory measures for the enhancement of the control of the local manufactures.

16. In July 2004, the Centre organized, in collaboration with the Government of Mali and the Commission of the African Union, a workshop of experts on transparency and small arms control in Africa. The workshop, held in Bamako, brought together the SATCRA participating States, relevant United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and individual experts. Building on the national consultations which the Centre had conducted in the SATCRA-participating States prior to the conference, participants adopted an operational definition of the concept of transparency and the various cooperative modalities within the SATCRA project. The conference also agreed on the following categories of data for the arms register: importation, exportation; manufacture, holdings, collection and destruction, donations, licenses, and surpluses. The participating States also agreed on the following time lines for the submission of data to the Centre: 31 December 2004: partial submission; 31 March 2005: full submission; 1 May 2005: posting of report by the Centre.

17. During the Bamako workshop, the Centre also conducted a two-day training workshop for the members of the national commissions/points of contact of the participating States on modern techniques and skills for data collection, data processing and reporting. The objective was to enhance the effectiveness of those national institutions on matters relating to the implementation of the project in the respective participating States.

18. In close cooperation with its partners, including the African Union, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the South Africa-based Institute for Security Studies, the Centre elaborated the terms of reference and the operational framework and guidelines for conducting the national inventories on the local capacities for the production of small arms and light weapons in the participating States of the SATCRA project. In cooperation with the national focal points, it identified a national consultant in each of the participating States, recruited within the framework of the SATCRA project, to conduct the inventory over a period of three months. Between March and June 2005, field missions were deployed to those countries with the primary objective of launching the inventory process and discussing the administrative modalities and the working methodology with the national consultant. Those missions also offered an opportunity for the Centre to consult with the Governments of the participating States on their role in the inventory process, including the required follow-up measures that should be put in place.

19. With regard to the establishment of the regional register on small arms and light weapons, the Centre initiated work related to designing the blueprint and format of the register as well as the reporting forms.

Capacity-building for and establishment of national commissions/points of contact for the implementation of the Programme of Action

20. During the reporting period, the Centre received requests from a number of national commissions for the organization of training workshops aimed at enhancing the operational and substantive skills of their members on practical disarmament matters. In that context, training modules and courses were developed for the national commissions of Cameroon, Nigeria and Togo. Preparatory work, including the identification of trainers and fund-raising activities, will be initiated for the organization of those workshops in the second half of 2005.

21. In April 2005, the Centre, together with the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of UNDP, and UNIDIR, participated in a mission to six countries in Southern Africa: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objective of that mission was to raise awareness and build the capacity of the participating States of national reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Action. Specifically, the mission was able to evaluate the issue of small arms and light weapons in the region from individual country perspectives, brief the Governments on the Programme of Action and its various provisions, reiterate the necessity for States to submit national reports, inform on the process of data collection, processing and reporting, and facilitate information exchange within and among countries.

C. Research, information and publication

22. The Centre continued to encourage research activities in the areas of peace and disarmament through: (a) the maintenance of its specialized library; (b) an internship for research within and outside Africa; and (c) in-house research projects: a project on the arms embargoes and sanctions in Africa and a study on the illicit routes and caches of weapons in Africa.

23. Two issues of the Centre's quarterly newsletter, *African Peace Bulletin*, were published and disseminated, as were two conference reports on the themes "parliamentary defence committees training workshop for ECOWAS member States" and "transparency in the flows of small arms and light weapons in Africa".

D. Cooperation with regional organizations and civil society

24. During the reporting period, the Centre pursued cooperation with regional and non-governmental organizations in the furtherance of peace, security and disarmament in Africa. That cooperation was in the form of exchange of programmes and information and provision of technical advice and expertise, in particular regarding the drafting of concept papers, project documents and conference reports.

25. The Centre continued discussions with the Commission of the African Union (AU) on the operational difficulties of the Centre, which aimed at identifying specific areas of cooperation, with a view to finalizing the draft memorandum of understanding on the cooperation between the two institutions, supporting the establishment of the AU Small Arms Unit and reviewing and adopting the draft code of conduct for the Armed and Security Forces in Africa, previously submitted to the Commission.

26. The Centre provided advice and expertise to ECOWAS on the implementation of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa, particularly in the context of assisting ECOWAS to formulate a draft regional convention which would ultimately replace the moratorium as a legally binding instrument. In that connection, the Centre collaborated with Oxfam Great Britain and Oxfam America in harnessing the support of civil society organizations, journalists and media organizations in West Africa around an international Arms Trade Treaty, proposed by the United Kingdom.

27. The Centre also provided additional support for the review and adoption of the project proposal for the establishment of the ECOWAS Small Arms Unit and the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme, the successor project to the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development in Africa.

28. The Centre maintained working relations with the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), particularly with regard to the implementation of the ECCAS Programme of Priority Activities for the Implementation of the Programme of Action in the Central African subregion. In May 2005, the Centre visited ECCAS to review specific areas of joint action in the implementation process. The Secretary-General of ECCAS requested the Centre's technical assistance in the organization of a meeting of ECCAS governmental experts to review the Programme of Priority Activities. The elaboration of a regional legally binding instrument on the control of small arms and light weapons in the subregion was discussed, and it was agreed that the governmental experts meeting would consider the proposal formally.

29. In an effort to reinforce ECCAS capacities in the implementation of the Programme of Action, in September 2004, the Centre supported the organization of a workshop in Bujumbura, Burundi, sponsored by the Institute for Security Studies.

30. The Centre shared information on disarmament matters and provided technical expertise to several civil society organizations working in the areas of peace, security and disarmament in and outside Togo, including women's groups such as the Association of Togolese Business Women.

IV. The operational situation of the Centre

A. The financial situation

31. Financial resources of the Centre operations have been dwindling steadily over the years. While some limited funds were received for the execution of projects, unfortunately, contributions in support of the operational costs of the Centre were not forthcoming. Those costs are related to maintenance expenses and salaries for the local staff and security.

32. Against the backdrop of the financial crisis of the Centre, which became more acute during the second half of 2004, extensive fund-raising activities were carried out by the Director of the Centre. Those activities consisted principally of missions, correspondence, audiences, other bilateral meetings and consultations with African Government representatives as well as with non-African countries, on the margins of regional conferences. The Director also kept the Commission of the African Union apprised of the operational difficulties of the Centre.

33. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of US$ 645,244 were received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Austria, Finland, France and Namibia for their financial contributions to and support for the activities of the Centre, and to the Government of Togo, the host country, for its overall support of the Centre and its financial contributions. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the year 2004 is contained in the annex to the present report.

34. Pursuant to the consideration by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General's proposals for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises, funds have been allotted again from the regular budget to ensure that the Centre was in full compliance with the minimum operating security standards.

35. Bearing in mind the persistent precarious financial situation of the Centre, the Department for Disarmament Affairs held a series of consultations last autumn with Member States on the state of affairs of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament and ways to improve their effectiveness. Specifically, during the fifty-ninth session of the First Committee, at an informal meeting devoted to this issue, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs informed the Committee of the difficulties — financial and logistical — faced by the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. At the same time, the Centres also faced the additional challenge of increased security requirements. In that connection, it was mentioned that the persisting precarious financial situation of the Regional Centre in Africa was compelling the Department to consider relocating temporarily its operations.

36. In December 2004, the Government of Togo made a special financial contribution aimed at enabling the Centre to maintain its operation in Lomé until the time when substantial financial support would be firmly committed to ensuring a multi-year sustainable operation.

37. During the past few months, the Department for Disarmament Affairs continued to focus its efforts on identifying ways and means of ensuring the operational sustainability of the Centre, with particular attention given to solutions highlighting efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as well as to the demands and needs of the African region.

38. In that context, the Secretary-General is currently considering the possibility of consolidating the activities of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa with other United Nations regional operations by co-locating the Centre with the United Nations Office at Nairobi or with the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa. To that end, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is currently undertaking consultations with Member States, including donor countries. At the same time, the Department, together with the Centre, is in the process of identifying projects that would respond to the needs of the region and finding the necessary financial support from the donor community. The implementation of such projects would contribute to revitalizing the Centre's activities and its relevance for the region.

B. Staffing

39. Insufficient resources to cover the operational costs have hampered the effective functioning of the Centre and impacted on the staffing situation. During the reporting period, the Centre therefore continued to operate with a skeleton staff comprising, in addition to the Director, an associate expert, funded by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, and locally recruited staff — one officer recruited to implement the SATCRA project and seven temporary General Service personnel. The staffing situation has been compounded by the

unpredictability of financial resources, which makes it impossible for the staff to be offered longer-term contracts.

40. Within the framework of the SATCRA project, 10 short-term national consultants have been recruited for three months in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo.

V. Conclusion

41. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to carry out its mandate under very strenuous financial and operational difficulties, which were aggravated by the security challenge it faced in the host country.

42. The activities and staffing of the Centre have been reduced during the reporting period in an effort to operate the Centre within the available limited resources. Notwithstanding, the future of the Centre looks bleak, as there is no foreseeable reliable source of funding that would ensure the operational sustainability of the Centre. Consolidating the activities of the Centre with existing United Nations regional operations appears to provide a solution to the current challenge, allow for better use of synergies, increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and most important, enable the Centre to fulfil its mandate in responding to the demands and needs of Africa in the field of peace and disarmament.

43. At the same time, there is a need to undertake a thorough review of the Centre's programme of activities, with a view to developing medium- and long-term projects to address the demands and needs of the countries in the region and ensuring reliable adequate funding for them. The consultations with Member States and donor countries carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs at the request of the Secretary-General with regard to co-locating the Centre are being undertaken parallel to such a review.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the year 2004

	United States dollars
Fund balance, 31 December 2003	445 095
Income, 1 January-31 December 2004	
Voluntary contributions[a]	528 023
Interest income	8 118
Other/miscellaneous income	2 875
Subtotal	**984 111**
Expenditures, 1 January-31 December 2004	588 224
Fund balance, 31 December 2004	**395 887**

Note: Information based on the statement of income and expenditure for the twelve-month period of the biennium 2004-2005 ending 31 December 2004.

[a] In 2004, contributions were received from: Austria ($10,000), Finland ($219,074), France ($94,979), Namibia ($1,000) and Togo ($202,970). During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2005, additional contributions totalling $117,251 were received from France ($98,953) and Togo ($18,298).

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Sustainable development

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the culmination of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The accelerated development and increased use of new and renewable sources of energy offer options with multiple benefits for sustainable development. Renewable sources of energy can be used to provide modern energy services to the poor, contribute to meeting the increasing global energy demand, reduce air pollution, mitigate climate change and delay the eventual fossil-fuel depletion. The World Solar Programme 1996-2005 has made a significant contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources can play in the global energy supply. New and renewable sources of energy have begun entering the mainstream of national and international energy-policy formulation and now constitute an integral element of the global vision for sustainable development. Although gradually increasing, the share of energy now derived from new and renewable sources remains far below its economic potential. Beginning with the World Summit on Sustainable Development, renewable energy has figured prominently in intergovernmental and international meetings. The fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development will focus on energy for sustainable development, atmosphere/air pollution, climate change and industrial development, and will provide an opportunity to formulate the follow-up to the World Solar Programme 1996-2005.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/210, reaffirmed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development and called for its full implementation, including the implementation of recommendations concerning energy for sustainable development. The Assembly encouraged the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, particularly in the context of development and poverty eradication.

2. In welcoming initiatives aimed at improving access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the General Assembly encouraged national and regional initiatives on renewable energies to promote access to energy, including renewable energy, for the poorest. The Assembly emphasized the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, requiring increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts. The Assembly also stressed that the wider use of available renewable sources of energy requires technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation.

3. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of its resolution A/58/210. The present report, pursuant to that request, provides an overview of recent trends in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, of recent advances in new and renewable energy technologies and their applications and of international programmes advancing the use of new and renewable sources of energy, as well as a summary of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 at its culmination and of follow-up efforts on renewable sources of energy under the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

II. Background

4. International interest in new and renewable sources of energy has grown continuously in recent years, motivated by different yet interrelated sustainable-development concerns of significant importance.

5. One of the growing concerns of the international community is the persistent energy poverty that is seriously impeding socio-economic development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and in countries of South Asia, but also in many other developing countries, including many of the small island developing States. In the developing countries, some 1.6 billion people still lack access to electricity and about 2.4 billion continue to rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, mainly in the rural areas. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's population whose income is less than $1 per day will depend on providing these people with access to modern energy

services for their basic needs and for income generation. Decentralized renewable energy systems can contribute to poverty eradication efforts, in particular in areas with widely dispersed rural populations.

6. Another growing concern is the risk of climate change. Human-induced carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions originate principally from the combustion of fossil fuels and from the release of methane during the extraction of natural gas, oil and coal. Expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy for electricity generation offers options to reduce anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Many countries have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of renewable energy in efforts to mitigate climate-change impacts.

7. Air pollution is also an issue of concern, particularly in large urban and industrialized areas. Local, regional and transboundary air pollution from sulphur and nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and suspended particulate matter emanating from fossil-fuel use can cause negative impacts on human health and acid precipitation and contribute to the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer. The use of renewable energy can have positive environmental impacts through the reduction of local air pollution.

8. There continues to be a need for more energy from all sources, including renewable sources. Developing countries in particular are faced with rising energy demand as a result of expanding per capita economic activity and increasing populations.

9. Finally, and with a longer-term perspective, the issue of natural-resource depletion should not be overlooked. Fossil-fuel reserves — especially oil, but also natural gas and coal — are ultimately finite natural resources. Together with greater energy efficiency, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies and a more sustainable use of traditional energy sources, new and renewable sources of energy will have to make a greater contribution to the future energy-supply mix if the rising global energy demand is to be met, and if energy costs, which are often projected to rise considerably in the future, are to remain at affordable levels.

III. Culmination of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

10. In September 1996, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized the World Solar Summit in Harare. Eighteen heads of State or Government attending the Summit constituted the World Solar Commission, adopted the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development and launched the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/7, to be implemented with the provision of secretariat assistance by UNESCO.

11. As the initiator of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, UNESCO provided the international community with an instrument for the promotion of renewable forms of energy.[3] In the spirit of that programme, a considerable number of industrialized and developing countries initiated and implemented local and national projects using energy from renewable sources. National programmes included assessment studies of renewable energy potentials, large-scale as well as small-scale investment projects in electricity generation using renewable sources of energy, and

national institution-building initiatives such as the creation of national renewable energy agencies, as well as capacity-building, training, advocacy and public information initiatives.

12. The contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 included a series of capacity-building projects and initiatives aimed at the dissemination of relevant scientific knowledge and technology. The aim of its Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme, which places special emphasis on Africa, is to improve the use of renewable sources of energy through better project management and operation, as well as the transfer of technological know-how through continuing and distance education and training activities targeting energy-policy decision makers, researchers, engineers, university educators and technicians. Under the programme, learning and teaching packages, textbooks and brochures on renewable energy have been prepared, field-tested and disseminated. UNESCO has carried out a number of training activities for the benefit of participants from developing countries, particularly those from African nations. UNESCO activities under the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 were frequently undertaken in cooperation with other organizations, including the International Solar Energy Society (ISES).

13. While the initial plan of the programme was quite ambitious, with a vast array of projects proposed, the number of projects eventually funded did not meet early expectations. Nevertheless, the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 was an important global initiative that has raised awareness of the increased role renewable sources can play in the global energy supply. A major impact of the Programme is that, during the period of its implementation, new and renewable energy sources have begun entering the mainstream of national and international energy-policy formulation and now constitute a major element of the global vision for sustainable development.

IV. Renewable energy and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

14. The promotion of new and renewable sources of energy figured prominently in the deliberations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The actions called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation include a major focus on energy for poverty eradication, for changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and for the sustainable development of regions, including Africa and the small island developing States.

15. In addressing the contribution that renewable energy can make to poverty eradication, the Plan calls for (a) increased use of energy from renewable sources as one means of improving access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, (b) improved access to modern biomass technologies and fuelwood sources and supplies, and commercialized biomass operations in rural areas and where such practices are sustainable, and (c) improved patterns of use through better management of resources, more efficient use of fuelwood and new and improved products and technologies aimed at promoting sustainable use of biomass and, as appropriate, other renewable sources of energy.

16. With regard to the need to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, the Plan calls for substantially increasing, with a sense of urgency, the global share of energy obtained from renewable sources, hydro included, with the objective of increasing its contribution to the total energy supply, and regularly evaluating available data to review progress to this end.

17. The Plan also calls for support for initiatives to increase the use of renewable energy, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, and to support the efforts of African nations to achieve the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, one of which is to secure access to energy for at least 35 per cent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas.

18. The report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, in January 2005, points out that energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for these nations, with many remote and rural small island developing communities having little or no access to modern and affordable energy services. The report, noting also that many small island developing States are particularly suited to the use of renewable sources of energy because of their geographical location, affirms that these States are committed, with the required support of the international community, to strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts in the areas of energy supply and services.

V. Trends in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy

19. During the past decade, the international community has contributed much to increasing awareness that multiple benefits — economic, social, and environmental — can result from accelerated development and increased use of new and renewable energy sources. This has prompted considerable national and international efforts to promote renewable energy development, including those under the World Solar Programme 1996-2005. There is now a discernible trend towards greater policy support in several developing countries. In such countries as Brazil, China, India and the Philippines, national-level programmes and institutional arrangements have been established for renewable energy development. However, in many other developing countries, programmes are still too small to have a significant impact on their national energy systems, due largely to lack of access to affordable new and renewable energy technologies. Most Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries have instituted concrete measures and adopted ambitious plans and targets, with particularly strong efforts in Europe, Japan and the United States of America. Under these programmes, a variety of projects have been implemented by national as well as local authorities, often in partnership with public-sector agencies, private-sector companies, non-governmental organizations, commercial banks, guarantee agencies and microfinance organizations.

20. The overall trend in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy is towards significant expansion, as shown for the various geographical regions in table 1 for electric power generated from renewable energy sources, which is a good indicator of the major non-transport consumption of renewable sources of energy using modern technologies other than hydropower, which is the

focus of table 2. While the share of hydropower-generated electricity consumed has remained relatively constant overall and started to decrease in the industrialized regions where some dams have been decommissioned in response to ecological concerns, development of this resource has been strong in Africa and West Asia. With regard to transportation, the use of fuel ethanol and other fuels from biological resources is also growing at a significant rate, as shown in table 3.

Table 1
World geothermal, solar, wind, and wood and waste electric power consumption by region, 1985-2003

(Billions of kilowatt-hours)

	1985	*1990*	*1995*	*2000*	*2003*
North America	12.32	71.65	83.35	93.29	102.07
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.44	13.12	16.66	23.45	31.94
Western Europe	13.81	19.39	38.03	75.01	110.35
Central and Eastern Europe and States of former Soviet Union	0.51	0.31	2.37	3.83	4.71
West Asia	—	—	0.001	0.003	0.01
Africa	0.37	0.39	0.43	0.90	1.01
Asia and the Pacific	20.05	26.69	36.62	53.03	60.01
Total	**55.50**	**131.54**	**177.47**	**249.49**	**310.10**

Source: Energy Information Administration, United States Department of Energy, June 2005, arranged according to the regions of the United Nations; see www.eia.doe.gov.

Table 2
World hydroelectric power consumption by region, 1985-2003

(Billions of kilowatt-hours)

	1985	*1990*	*1995*	*2000*	*2003*
North America	585.11	586.73	643.40	630.24	608.27
Latin America and the Caribbean	313.43	388.37	487.00	578.85	581.09
Western Europe	453.15	453.42	508.49	554.90	483.74
Central and Eastern Europe and States of former Soviet Union	228.63	251.72	268.14	258.04	266.33
West Asia	3.22	6.52	8.33	10.58	12.53
Africa	46.50	54.82	58.87	73.96	84.96
Asia and the Pacific	323.53	410.12	486.29	545.21	615.98
Total	**1 953.57**	**2 151.72**	**2 461.29**	**2 651.76**	**2 654.37**

Source: Energy Information Administration, United States Department of Energy, June 2005, arranged according to the regions of the United Nations; see www.eia.doe.gov.

Table 3
World fuel ethanol and biodiesel production by region, 1985-2003
(Billions of litres)

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003
North America	2.3	3.5	5.3	6.4	11.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.7	1.8	12.6	10.9	13.7
Western Europe	—	—	0.4	1.0	3.2
Central and Eastern Europe and States of former Soviet Union	—	—	—	0.1	0.1
West Asia	—	—	—	—	—
Africa	—	—	—	—	—
Asia and the Pacific	—	—	—	—	1.3
Total	**14.1**	**15.2**	**18.3**	**18.4**	**30.1**

Source: F.O Licht's World Ethanol and Biofuels Reports (2003-2005).

21. However, despite the marked overall increase in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, and in their share of the total energy mix, the magnitude of that share remains quite small. All renewable forms of energy (including large hydropower and non-commercial biomass) were estimated to provide in 2002 only 13.4 per cent of the global primary energy supply, with 2.2 per cent from hydropower (of all sizes), 10.8 per cent from combustible renewables, which were mainly fuelwood and charcoal, and 0.5 per cent from geothermal, solar, tidal and wind energy.

22. From the annual growth rates for the energy supplied from the various renewable sources averaged over the period from 1990 to 2002 shown in table 4, a significant difference in the development of each source is evident. The amount of energy supplied by solid biomass, geothermal energy and hydropower sources grew only 10 to 30 per cent faster than the total primary energy supplied. However, solar and wind energy sources and renewable municipal solid waste, biogas and liquid biomass proved to be significant growth areas for renewable energy use, as the technologies to exploit them continue to undergo rapid development.

Table 4
Annual growth rates of energy supplied from renewable sources from 1990 to 2002

(Percentage)

All primary energy sources	1.4
All renewable energy sources	1.7
Wind	23.9
Solar	6.4
Hydropower	1.6
Geothermal	1.8
Solid biomass	1.6
Renewable municipal solid waste, biogas and liquid biomass	7.4

Source: Renewables Information, International Energy Agency, Paris 2004

VI. Recent advances in new and renewable energy technologies and their applications

23. In support of resolution A/58/210, many countries have intensified research and development efforts in support of energy for sustainable development, including energy from renewable sources. In fact, development of renewable energy spans the full range of sectors, application, and technologies, including electricity supply using grid and off-grid means, and a variety of wind, solar photovoltaic, biomass co-generation, biogas co-generation, hydropower, tidal and geothermal solutions.

24. The modern renewable energy technologies, such as wind turbines, modern biomass systems, modern biofuels[4] and solar photovoltaics (PV), are receiving increasing support in many developing and industrialized countries. Markets are currently expanding at an annual rate of about 30 per cent for wind energy and about 20 per cent for solar photovoltaics and these have experienced significant cost reductions over the years.

Wind power

25. Grid-connected wind power is regarded as a major success in renewable energy applications on the basis of technological maturity and commercial attractiveness. The installed capacity worldwide, at the end of 2004, reached 47,000 megawatts and is poised to exceed 100,000 megawatts by 2010. Worldwide investment in wind power installations was approximately $9 billion in 2003, corresponding to a capacity addition of nearly 8,100 megawatts in that year. The historical trend in cost reduction has also been quite impressive. Wind power now costs less than $0.05 per kilowatt-hour at good windy sites. Over the last 15 years, the annual energy output per turbine unit has increased 100-fold, and turbine capacity for typical commercial machines has increased from 55 kilowatts to over 3 megawatts. In the past five years, the weight of a wind turbine per kilowatt of installed power has been halved. The total installed capacity has increased more than 15-fold in the last 10 years. Taken as a whole, wind power has emerged as a

key renewable energy technology whose cost is competitive with the average cost of conventional power.

26. The support provided by Governments has influenced development patterns, particularly in Denmark, Germany, India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Many developing countries have major plans for harnessing wind power. India already has an installed capacity of over 3,500 megawatts and China has installed more than 964 megawatts so far under a major wind-power development programme.

27. With continued innovation in site optimization, generator design and power electronics, further cost reduction is expected, although the pace may not be as rapid. Recent developments include improvements in variable-speed and gearless wind machines, and wind turbines are now able to operate efficiently at lower wind speeds, which opens the use of wind power to sites that were previously considered uneconomical. In addition to the installation of wind power units onshore, a trend is emerging to develop offshore sites. Developing countries face the challenge of establishing national capacities to undertake such offshore projects. Environmental issues surrounding wind energy pertain to noise, television and radio interference, danger to birds and visual effects, and care needs to be exercised in siting to avoid these problems. Many utility studies have indicated that wind can be readily incorporated into an integrated power network until its share reaches 20 per cent of maximum demand. With continuing improvements in performance and costs and appropriate support, both nationally and internationally, the global installed wind capacity is likely to increase significantly.

Solar photovoltaics

28. Like wind-power technology, solar photovoltaics (PV) have also experienced rapid growth in diverse applications. Advances in technology, and the gradual expansion of production capacity worldwide, as well as numerous demonstration projects undertaken during the 1990s, have contributed to the development of the PV market. Costs have fallen substantially over the years. However, the market for PV and the total installed capacity are much smaller than those for wind power. The cumulative installed PV capacity is estimated to be about 3,000 megawatts, with about 1,000 megawatts shipped last year. The cost of PV remains at least 5 to 10 times that of grid electricity. Nevertheless, for small power applications in rural and remote areas, PV has established itself as a cost-effective alternative to grid extension or diesel-powered generation.

29. A number of developing countries have been promoting solar home systems and mini-grids in rural areas far from electrical grids, for lighting, communications and productive uses. In addition to national efforts, support provided by the World Bank Group is estimated to have provided PV-based electricity services to an estimated 1.2 million households, enterprises and community facilities that lack access to grid electricity, at a cost of more than $700 million. Some developing countries such as Brazil, China, India and the Philippines, have established significant technical and industrial capacity. Several African countries, notably Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, have each facilitated access to decentralized PV electrification for more than 100,000 consumers, including households. Grid-connected PV applications are also increasing as a result of developments in efficient grid interfacing technologies and the wider use of net

metering facilities. Several megawatt-scale PV systems have been installed in Europe and the United States of America.

30. PV technologies are still evolving, and no clear trend has emerged with regard to the choice between crystalline silicon technologies and thin-film technologies. Recent advances and developments in other areas of PV technology include organic semiconductor-based solar cells on flexible plastic substrates, nanotechnology-based and quantum-dot PV systems, light-absorbing dye-based and photoelectrochemical systems and building-integrated photovoltaic designs.

31. While most of these advances are still at the research stage, for some the potential for commercial-scale operations is promising. The achievement of a substantial cost reduction for any of these technologies would provide the opportunity for rapid expansion of PV applications.

Hydropower

32. For the supply of electricity, large hydropower sites are the primary sources of renewable energy in both industrialized and developing countries, contributing approximately 20 per cent to electric power generation worldwide, while utilizing about one third of the economically exploitable potential of that resource. Hydropower projects have the advantage of avoiding emissions of greenhouse gases, SO_2 and particulates. Their social impacts, such as land transformation, displacement of people and impacts on fauna, flora, sedimentation and water quality, can be mitigated if appropriate steps are taken early in the planning process. As there remains considerable resource potential, particularly in the developing regions, hydropower can make a significant contribution to sustainable development when all these aspects are carefully managed. The United Nations Symposium on Hydropower and Sustainable Development in Beijing in October 2004, organized jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank and the Government of China, and attended by 500 participants from national and local governments, utilities, the private sector, multilateral financial and other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and international industry organizations, concluded with a declaration emphasizing the need for developing hydropower resources in a manner that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Geothermal energy

33. Geothermal energy has now been tapped in 24 countries. In 2003, geothermal resources supplied 57,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity, an increase of 50 per cent from 1995. El Salvador, Iceland and the Philippines generate 25 per cent or more of their electricity needs from geothermal sources. Several countries are moving ahead with new developments, particularly Indonesia and the Philippines. Iceland, Italy, Japan and New Zealand have long provided international training opportunities in geothermics for developing countries in cooperation with the United Nations, and were recently joined by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Modern biomass and conversion technologies

34. While traditional uses of biomass continue to play a significant role for low-income populations in developing countries, the trend in applications worldwide is increasingly shifting to modern biomass and conversion technologies. The

modernization of biomass use relates to a range of technological options, such as gasification, co-firing with fossil fuels, micropower, tri-generation and ethanol. Biomass gasification and biomass-to-liquid fuel technologies that can produce ethanol and biodiesel, together with sustainable management of biomass resources, open a major role for biomass, especially in the transportation sector, where it can directly substitute for fossil fuels. The use of modern biomass systems for heat and electricity generation is expanding rapidly in industrialized countries. For example, it contributes about 11 per cent of primary energy in Austria, 20 per cent in Finland and 4 per cent in the United States of America. Worldwide electricity production capacity based on commercial biomass exceeds 40,000 megawatts. As a result of significant market experience, these systems have attracted attention in several developing countries, notably Brazil, China and India.

35. National and international efforts have contributed much to the significant progress in addressing the environmental problem caused by fuelwood use through the introduction of a variety of locally compatible fuelwood stoves that improved efficiency from 5 per cent to 20 to 30 per cent in the two decades, during which an estimated 100 million such stoves were introduced.

36. Worldwide production of ethanol has doubled since 1985, reaching about 30 billion litres per year in 2003. Brazil — which has had a major fuel ethanol programme for over 25 years that now operates on a commercial basis without subsidies — and the United States of America account for more than 90 per cent of the total, with production growing in Western Europe, as well as in Canada, China, India and Zimbabwe. New programmes to produce commercial quantities of fuel ethanol are also under way in Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, some with an interest in exporting.

37. Worldwide, Western Europe has the highest biodiesel production capacity; in 2003 it reached about 1.5 billion litres per year compared with the world production capacity of 1.7 billion litres per year. The fuel is used mainly as a diesel blend, typically at the rate of 5 or 20 per cent. However, in Germany, biodiesel is commonly sold in its 100 per cent neat form and dispensed in about 700 filling stations. Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are planning to expand biodiesel production based on palm and coconut oils.

38. Research is now under way to find ways to reduce the land-use conflicts involved in ethanol production from grain by developing techniques that exploit the cellulose route to ethanol production, in which any plant feedstock can be used, with gasification of the biomass followed by conversion of the gas into liquid fuels such as ethanol, methanol, synthetic diesel, gasoline and dimethyl ether (a potential alternative fuel for diesel engines). Although still under development, fuels produced by some of these techniques are expected to become commercialized in the foreseeable future. For some countries, biofuels offer a way to achieve greater energy security through diversification and provide environmental benefits as well. A number of land utilization, environmental and societal issues, as well as internal and external trade issues, pose challenges to the scaling up of liquid biofuel production to achieve national and global impacts.

Hydrogen

39. The international community recognizes that hydrogen could be a key component in a clean, sustainable energy system, popularly referred to as the

hydrogen economy. Such a system features hydrogen as the major energy carrier for stationary power, transportation, industry, residences and commerce. However, in order for such a system to be environmentally friendly, the primary energy source will have to be renewable. The hydrogen produced can be stored, transported by truck or pipeline and used in fuel cells, turbines and engines to generate electric power, with water as the principal by-product.

40. Progress towards a hydrogen economy is advancing. In 2003, automobile companies collectively adopted the concept of storing hydrogen on board for a fuel-cell vehicle. Iceland produces hydrogen using geothermal energy and hydropower, both indigenous renewable energy sources, and its Government announced plans to further expand renewable energy use towards the ultimate goal of a national hydrogen economy. The Government of Norway is considering plans for making this fuel from wind and hydropower resources.

41. A major research and development initiative on hydrogen fuel-cell technology has been under way in Japan for more than two decades, with current efforts focusing on the commercialization of hydrogen fuel cells and studying the use of offshore floating wind farms to produce hydrogen for piping to markets onshore. The United States Government has allocated $1.7 billion over the next five years for the advancement of hydrogen, fuel-cell and hybrid-electric vehicle technologies and to support the necessary infrastructure for these vehicles. In 2003, the European Commission launched a €2.8 billion initiative that incorporates a 10-year programme for hydrogen-related research, production and use, and also recently unveiled a €2 billion hydrogen vision designed to bring hydrogen technologies, including fuel cells, closer to large-scale commercial viability based on renewable resources by 2050. Hydrogen fuel research is also actively pursued in Switzerland. Among the developing countries, Brazil, China and India have national hydrogen research and development programmes. The Indian programme focuses on the production, storage and use of hydrogen, and has already demonstrated the use of gasifiers for converting woody biomass into hydrogen to fuel electric generators for village power in remote areas and the use of hydrogen and natural gas blends for operating vehicles. Challenges to the development of the hydrogen economy include the establishment of the fuel distribution infrastructure, the improvement of hydrogen storage systems and a reduction in the cost of fuel cells.

Mixed energy sources

42. In some countries, national renewable energy programmes are comprehensive and support the development of a mix of energy sources. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for example, is supporting the demonstration of renewable technologies not yet fully developed or financially competitive. Between 2002 and 2008, the United Kingdom Government will provide £500 million for the development of emerging renewable and low-carbon technologies, including grants of over £60 million for energy crop and biomass projects and £31 million for PV systems. In 2004, the Government announced the establishment of a special £50 million fund that is largely earmarked to support a large-scale demonstration that for the first time will feed power from wave and tidal energy into the national grid. The commitment of the Government of China is equally comprehensive. In addition to its massive hydropower projects, China has a total installed capacity of 34 million kilowatts of small hydropower facilities (<50 kilowatt) providing electricity to 300 million people in the remote and

mountainous areas of 30 of its 32 provinces; 60 million square metres or 40 per cent of the world's installation, of solar water heaters; wind farms with an installed grid-connected capacity of nearly 0.76 megawatts; and a new renewable energy law delineating the responsibilities of various government agencies and requiring the establishment of measures to encourage power generation from renewable sources. Plans call for small hydropower installations to double by 2020, solar water heaters to increase by 12 million square metres annually, wind power installations to increase 50-fold by 2020 as a result of new concession bidding arrangements, and the country as a whole to derive 10 per cent of its primary energy supply from renewable sources by 2020.

Policy tools and measures

43. Governments use a variety of policy tools and measures to promote renewable energy use. In the United States of America, national laws were enacted in 1978 to enhance competition in electricity supply by requiring utilities to buy electricity from co-generators and smaller-scale renewable energy producers at the utilities' avoided cost, and to provide investment tax credits for residential and business consumers who install facilities producing electricity from renewable sources. In 1992, another such law provides the basis for direct financial incentives for investment in renewable energy technologies, some of which are still available to investors today. Recently, local governments have been motivated, largely by environmental concerns, to enact laws promoting the use of renewable sources of energy. For example, 28 states of the United States of America have adopted or are considering the adoption of renewable portfolio standards to ensure that a certain minimum portion of the electricity serving that state comes from renewable sources, and many United States counties and municipalities provide further incentives that promote these sources. The European Union is pursuing a target for its member States of 10 per cent of electricity from renewables by 2012 and 20 per cent by 2020. In many of its member countries, electricity feed-in and renewable energy laws are among the main tools used to encourage private investment in renewable energy development by obliging utilities to buy power from producers of renewable energy at commercially attractive higher-than-market rates. Other tools used to promote renewable energy include government purchasing or bidding systems; differential production; investment, sales and excise taxes; tax credits, exemptions and rebates; tradable certificates; third-party financing; green pricing; net metering; and consumer grants or rebates. Recent studies have shown that policy measures aimed at promoting renewable energy utilization can have positive impacts by stimulating renewable energy investment, equipment production, trade and development.

VII. International programmes for advancing the use of new and renewable sources of energy

44. Many renewable energy projects have high-capital investment requirements. Among other factors affecting the economic viability of renewable-energy projects, long-term capital costs are of paramount importance. International financial institutions play a crucial role in mobilizing the necessary financial resources, in particular for large-scale investments, but also for supporting national lending institutions and small-scale revolving loan funds. This is crucial for those

developing countries, particularly in Africa, that continue to face constraints in responding to the call for substantially increasing the share of renewable energy in their energy-supply mix largely because of limited capacity and lack of access to technologies and financing.

45. The World Bank Group, consisting of several institutions, plays a particularly prominent role in international cooperation for development financing. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) works to reduce poverty in middle-income countries by promoting sustainable development, through loans, guarantees and technical advisory services. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are the focus of a significant and growing number of IBRD projects. Donor contributions to the International Development Association (IDA) enable the World Bank to provide $7 billion each year in concessional lending to more than 80 low-income countries with an estimated population of 2.5 billion people for access to improved basic services, productivity growth and employment creation. Renewable energy and energy efficiency components are included in a number of IDA-funded initiatives that focus on poverty alleviation and economic development. The mandate of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is to further economic development through the private sector. IFC invests in projects and in regions and sectors underserved by private investment and finds innovative financing modalities and business models to develop opportunities in markets deemed too risky by commercial investors in the absence of its participation. IFC has a growing portfolio of renewable energy projects. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) encourages foreign investment in developing countries by providing guarantees to foreign investors against losses caused by non-commercial risks. Risk guarantees by MIGA have made it possible for the private sector to undertake renewable energy projects that otherwise would not have proceeded.

46. A further important source of multilateral funding for renewable and energy efficiency projects is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). GEF is the incremental financing mechanism for a range of international environmental agreements, providing support for projects that have a global environmental benefit.

47. The financial commitments of the World Bank Group, summarized in table 5, have contributed considerably to a steady and accelerating investment in and production of energy from new and renewable sources. However, in many of the developing countries, and particularly in rural areas, small-scale energy entrepreneurs and cooperatives still face obstacles in securing financing for viable project proposals. More innovative financing arrangements for smaller-scale projects and further upscaling and replication of successful renewable energy projects will be important for the achievement of the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Table 5
World Bank Group renewable energy and energy-efficiency commitments since 1990

(Millions of United States dollars)

	Renewable energy	*Energy efficiency*	*Total*
IBRD and IDA	1 320	1 734	3 054
IFC	752	93	845
GEF	694	363	1 057
Total	**2 766**	**2 190**	**4 956**

Source: Renewable Energy for Development, World Bank Group, Washington, D.C. (May 2004); see www.worldbank.org.

48. The continued commitment of the World Bank Group to the practical, effective and direct promotion of new and renewable sources of energy is also manifested in the recent decision to rely on renewable energy for 100 per cent of the power needs of its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

49. Together with the bilateral programmes of other donors that support investments in energy and sustainable development, the European Union Energy Initiative and the Energy Facility for African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries can also be expected to stimulate the mobilization of new resources for renewable energy development in those regions.

50. Several organizations of the United Nations system support developing country efforts to expand the use of energy from renewable sources. At the request of many developing countries, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has provided technical and policy advisory services, including projects in China for commercializing renewable energy technologies; in several small island developing States for the practical application of solar energy systems; and for strengthening renewable energy development capacities in several Arab States, including assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic in preparing a comprehensive renewable-energy master plan. With funds from the Human Security Fund, supported by Japan and the United Nations Foundation, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has recently implemented projects in the Gambia, India and Timor-Leste, adopting an integrated approach to capacity-building involving productive activities, community development and improvement of basic water and energy infrastructure. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs programme focuses on promoting policies that increase access to energy for sustainable development through the exploitation of renewable sources of energy.

51. UNESCO has provided support for national and regional training activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for such recent major conferences as the World Wind Energy Conference and Renewable Energy Exhibition, in Beijing; the World Renewable Energy Congress and Exhibition 2005 for Asia and Africa, in Jakarta; and the 20th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition, in Barcelona. In addition, UNESCO has supported regional networks such as the International Network for Sustainable Energy, launched in collaboration with the Energy Institute of French-Speaking Countries

and the European Network on Education and Training in Renewable Energy Sources, a regional voluntary cooperative framework uniting universities and other educational and academic institutions in Europe.

52. One of the selected programme goals being pursued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the expansion of access to sustainable energy services, with the aims of establishing national policy frameworks that reflect the role of energy in poverty reduction and sustainable development; increasing access to energy services, electricity or cleaner fuels in rural areas; introducing low-emission energy technologies, including renewable energy; and expanding access to energy-investment financing through the Clean Development Mechanism and public-private partnerships. In 2004, 153 full-scale projects in renewable energy were implemented by UNDP with a total value of $556 million, including cost-sharing. Support for developing national renewable energy strategies was provided in Bolivia, Chile, Peru, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Uzbekistan. A considerable number of sustainable-energy development and renewable-energy promotion projects were supported by GEF, including large projects undertaken by UNDP in Bolivia, Mexico, Slovenia, Thailand and Tunisia, each with a budget of between $4 million and $12 million. In addition, UNDP has been managing the GEF Small Grants Programme, which has so far supported approximately 820 practical small-scale projects.

53. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) addresses the environmental consequences of energy production and use, such as global climate change and local air pollution. UNEP promotes policies that place energy and transport within the broader sustainable development context and steers project developers and investors towards greater engagement in renewable-energy and energy-efficiency programmes. UNEP and its two collaborating centres, the Risø Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development and the Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy, work with a wide range of stakeholders to, inter alia, diversify and increase the global share of renewable energy sources, improve access to environmentally sound energy resources and services, remove market distortions, provide access to energy markets and accelerate the development and dissemination of better methods and technology. The larger UNEP programmes that are focused on renewable energy include the Rural Energy Enterprise Development Programme, the Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative and the Indian Solar Loan Programme. UNEP also supports and participates in international partnerships such as the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme, works on capacity-building together with export credit agencies and is involved in the Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism project.

54. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to assist developing countries through policy advice, projects and technical advisory services to meet their energy requirements in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as a means of achieving sustainable development. The energy activities of FAO are carried out in cooperation with many different regional and international partner organizations and are implemented through its network of over 80 national, regional and subregional offices. FAO activities seek to promote a progressive transition from the present energy supply, consisting mainly of fuelwood and other biomass fuels and of animal and human power, to a more diversified resource base that includes other renewable energy sources and more modern uses of biomass. FAO activities include field projects aimed at increasing the supply of biofuels, reducing

inefficient fuelwood consumption and promoting rural electrification based on renewable energy, while seeking to attain sustainable livelihoods and gender equality and improve the living conditions of rural populations.

55. In promoting new and renewable energy development, technology dissemination and application, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to expand the productive use of small hydropower, sustainable biomass energy, solar photovoltaic power and thermal energy, and wind energy, in particular for the benefit of rural areas in developing countries. UNIDO promotes renewable energy entrepreneurship, the manufacture of renewable energy equipment and rural industrialization using renewable energy in several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

56. Projects and programmes that promote the development and use of renewable sources of energy are also being implemented by several of the United Nations regional economic commissions. The contribution of renewable energy technologies to poverty alleviation has been the main focus of studies by the Economic Commission for Africa, including innovative financing mechanisms to facilitate access to energy services for the poor. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has supported a pilot mini-hydropower project in Indonesia involving a public-private partnership for providing basic energy services to the rural poor. One focus of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is on preparing studies on the potential and use of new and renewable sources of energy in the region. The promotion of renewable energy is also a core activity at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which disseminates information on renewable energy technologies in the context of water desalination and rural electrification.

57. Collaborative arrangements on energy among the relevant departments, programmes and agencies of the United Nations are expected to benefit from and expand with the recent establishment of UN-Energy. Following a decision by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination pursuant to the recommendation of the High-level Committee on Programmes, UN-Energy was established in June 2004 as a system-wide collaborative arrangement on energy. During the start-up phase, the 19 participating UN-Energy members have prepared an inventory of ongoing work to identify areas for cooperation. With regard to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO are jointly initiating a UN-Energy modelling project that seeks to provide countries with a practical computer model toolkit to quantitatively project and assess the contribution of alternative renewable energy policy measures to the goal of increasing the share of energy from renewable sources in the total energy supply. Another joint effort, led by FAO, is undertaking an assessment of and supports capacity-building in the area of bioenergy.

58. International partnerships, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders that promote the development of new and renewable sources of energy also contribute significantly to advancing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (*REEEP*) works to structure policy initiatives for clean energy markets, facilitate financing for sustainable energy projects and support the creation of new sources of finance.

Recent REEEP projects have established private energy-market funds to provide capital for sustainable-energy investments in South-East Asia and an innovative private equity and guarantee facility for clean energy for small hydropower projects in Brazil.

59. In November 2003, energy ministers from 15 countries and the European Union, representing 85 per cent of the world's gross domestic product, announced the creation of the International Partnership for a Hydrogen Economy (IPHE), an important global effort to maximize collaborative partnerships among countries and to promote the conduct of advanced research on hydrogen and fuel-cell technologies and the sharing of the results. The Government of Iceland, a member of IPHE, has offered Iceland as an international platform for hydrogen research and experimentation with a view to facilitating the sharing of its pioneering experiences.

60. Of the 308 international partnerships currently registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 77 involve energy for sustainable development, of which 16 have a major focus on renewable energy, including the Global Village Energy Partnership, led by UNDP and the World Bank; the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, led by UNEP; the 100% Renewable Energy Islands partnership, involving the Governments of Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu; the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme, led by the Italian Ministry of the Environment; the Modern Biomass Technology for Rural Energy Needs partnership, involving the Governments of France and Madagascar; the Renewable-Energy-Based Rural Electrification Initiative, led by the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research of the United States of America; and the Sustainable Energy for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean partnership, led by the Caribbean Community secretariat.

61. Several recent international conferences have been organized to highlight the benefits and promote the increased use of renewable sources of energy. In particular, the Government of Germany hosted the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn in June 2004. At the Conference, ministers and government representatives from 154 countries adopted a Political Declarations and committed their Governments to an International Action Programme aimed at increasing investments in electricity generation based on renewable energy sources, bringing about access to energy for a large number of people and reducing CO_2 emissions. Similarly, perspectives for interregional cooperation among developing countries in the promotion of renewable sources of energy were highlighted at the Asian-African Symposium on Renewable Energy, held in Jakarta in April 2005 in conjunction with the Asia-Africa Summit 2005. Symposium participants agreed to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Community of Renewable Energy of Asia-Africa in the spirit of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership agreed upon by the heads of State in attendance at the Summit. Moreover, specialist technical conferences have provided important forums for the exchange of information on project experiences and technology advances in hydropower, biomass, wind, solar, geothermal and other forms of electricity generation based on renewable sources.

VIII. Conclusions: prospects for the future

62. International efforts to expand access to energy for the poor, reduce air pollution, mitigate climate change and expand the energy resource base are serving to increase international awareness of the benefits available from renewable energy development and utilization. In recent years, the use of new and renewable sources of energy has accelerated, and policymakers in many countries have taken or initiated action to promote the increased utilization of these energy sources. Public utilities, the private sector, international partnerships and non-governmental and community-based organizations have all contributed to increasing investments in renewable energy. Whereas in the industrialized countries the production and use of biofuels and electricity generation from wind and solar energy have grown substantially, developing countries have added most of their additional renewable energy capacities from hydropower.

63. Although the share of energy derived from new and renewable sources is gradually increasing, the total share of commercial energy derived from these sources still remains far below its economic potential. According to the latest available estimates, the share of new and renewable energy in the total global energy supply, including large hydropower but not including combustible renewables and waste, has yet to reach 3 per cent.

64. Thanks also to the awareness raised by the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, interest in new and renewable sources of energy has intensified. The topic is reflected in the Gleneagles Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development resulting from the Group of Eight Summit of 2005. Among the concrete action points, the Group of Eight will promote the International Action Programme of the 2004 International Conference for Renewable Energies, held in Bonn, Germany, through a new conference to be jointly organized by the Governments of China and Germany, facilitated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and held in Beijing at the end of 2005. Moreover, the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change offers the prospect of financing the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries under the Clean Development Mechanism. Thus, more intensive efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable sources of energy may be envisaged.

65. There remain large segments of developing-country populations that still do not have access to modern forms of energy, while many indigenous energy sources, including renewable ones, remain untapped. Increased local, national and international efforts will be needed to achieve the renewable energy elements of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

66. During its second cycle, in 2006 and 2007, the Commission on Sustainable Development will consider the thematic cluster that includes energy for sustainable development, atmosphere/air pollution, climate change and industrial development. At its fourteenth session, in 2006, the Commission will conduct a review of all four areas, identifying successes and best practices as well as gaps and remaining obstacles to full implementation, to be followed by

its fifteenth session in 2007, which will focus on policy options to further advance, among other things, the use of renewable sources of energy for sustainable development.

Notes

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] The World Solar Programme 1996-2005 encompasses all forms of renewable energy, including solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, wave, ocean thermal and geothermal.

[4] Biofuels are renewable fuels of biological origin, such as fuelwood, charcoal, livestock manure, biogas, biohydrogen, bioalcohol, microbial biomass, agricultural waste and energy crops. Bioenergy is energy generated through biofuels.

[5] A/60/82, annex.